Tomich, Q. P.

1953

Alaska

Catalog: #2501 – 2549

Journal

Eskimo Notes

Species Accounts

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Catalog

May 20 Point Barrow, Alaska

2501 ♀ Anthus spinoletta - largest oocyte 0.5mm. - light fat - 17.4
foraging alone, a few others in vicinity

May 21

2502 ♂ Dendroica coronata - testis 5mm. - emaciated - 7.5
found dead in steam valve box, seen alive May 20

May 23

2503 ? Oenanthe oenanthe no fat - 14.0
found dead on ice by an eskimo, 1/2 mile from beach

May 28

2504 ♀ Lemmus trimucronatus - skeleton only

2505 ♂ " " " "

May 29

2506 ♀ Lemmus trimucronatus - skeleton only

2507 ♀ " " " "

May ~~31~~ 16

2508 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 150-14-21-12 testes 12mm. - 95.8
obtained by Alfred Hopson May 16

2509 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 142-14-20-8 testes 8mm. - 55.9
obtained by Alfred Hopson in April

June 1

2510 ♂ Arenaria interpres - testis 12mm. - light fat - 97.0

2511 ♂ Erolia bairdii - testis 10mm. - moderate fat - 40.3
both birds foraging alone; other bairdii in vicinity.

June 6

2512 ♀ Mustela rixosa 176-19-23-6 6 emb. R, 6 L. 5mm. - 53.1
obtained by Alfred Hopson - no skull

2513 ♀ Phalaropus fulicarius moderate fat ova to 5.0 mm. - 62.5

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June 6 Point Barrow, Alaska

2514 ♂ Phalaropus fulicarius - testis 16mm. moderate fat - 53.3
foraging alone with #2513 on thaw pool

2515 ♂ Mustela rixosa 211-20-26-6 testes 8mm. - 95.5
caught by hand on gravel among buildings of base

June 7

2516 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 140-14-19-11 testes 11mm. - 78.5

2517 ♂ " " 139-13-18-11 testes 11mm. - 62.9.
two specimens with melanistic pelages

June 8

2518 ♀ Asio flammeus - ova to 12mm. light fat - 405.6

2519 ♀ " " - ova to 5mm. light fat - 475.0

2520 ♂ Stercorarius pomarinus - testis 20mm. no fat - 671.0

June 10

2521 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 161-13-20-11 testes 11mm. - 103.1

June 15

2522 Dicrostonyx groenlandicus - found dead, skeleton only

2523 ♂ Stercorarius longicaudus - testis 13mm. - light fat - 258.4
hunting lemmings with another bird

June 16

2524 ♂ Alopex lagopus - 885-320-147-66 testes 19mm. - 3745
found dead; skin, skull, and skeleton saved

2525 ♀ Polysticta stelleri - ova to 13mm. - light fat - 835.8

June 17

2526 ♂ Mustela rixosa 202-20-27-6 testes 8mm. - 111.7

June 19

2527 ♂ Dicrostonyx groenlandicus - skeleton only
found dead, crushed, and unfresh.

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June 20 Point Barrow, Alaska

2528 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 140-13-20-11 testes 13mm. - 85.5
melanistic pelage ; caught by Paul Hurd

June 23

2529 ♂ Rhodostethia rosea testis 5mm. - light fat - 159.0
foraging with another non-breeding male

June 24

2530 ♂ Mustela rixosa 190-20-26-6 testes 6mm. - 91.0
partly white pelage, not molting ; caught by Paul Hurd

June 27

2531 ♀ Uria lomvia - oocytes minute - body emaciated
skeleton only, dead on beach, broken wing healed

2532 ♀ Mustela rixosa 176-15-20-5 emb. 2R, 1L, 15mm. - 67.5
caught by Frank Pitelka

June 29

2533 ♂ Mustela rixosa 210-20-28-6 testes 8mm. light fat - 123.6
apparently an old individual; caught by W. L. Thompson

2534 ♀ Mustela rixosa 171-13-19-6 no embryos - lactation - 49.2
obtained from Chester Lampe

July 4

2535 ♂ Stercorarius pomarinus testis 13mm. - light fat - 705
skeel
member of nesting pair, brood patches in both sexes

May 18

2536 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 160-13-21-7, testes 12mm, light fat - 99.7
shell crushed, specimen frozen and prepared July 5

2537 ♂ Lemmus trimucronatus 157-13-19-8, testes 10mm. - 87.0

2538 ♂ " " 153-14-18-8, testes 10mm. - 85.7

prepared July 13, 1953 ; skeleton only

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July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska

2539 ♂ *Mustela rixosa* 178-16-23-6 testes 6 mm. light fat -84.0
caught by Paul Hurd, pelage rough, not molting

July 19

2540 ♀ *Sterna paradisea* ovaries minute -12.8
downy young from Doctor Island, 4 mi. SE. Point Barrow

2541 ♂ *Xema sabini* testis 8 mm. light fat -192.3

July 20

2542 ♂ *Somateria spectabilis* testis 14 mm. light fat -1689
found dead near Eskimo shooting stand

July 21

2543 ♂ *Nyctea scandiaca* testis 5 mm. -1034
taken from vicinity nest # 3 by Howard Hind

July 29

2544 ♂ *Mustela rixosa* 180-19-23-6 testis 7 mm. -61.0

July 30

2545 ♂ *Dicrostonyx groenlandicus* 130-8-19-7 testes 6 mm. -46.6
prominent molt areas black on underside of skin

2546 ♂ *Riparia riparia* testis 1 mm. light fat -21.6
migrant collected as it foraged over base

July 28

2547 ♀ *Polysticta stelleri* ova minute, no fat -148.5
duckling caught by Eskimo children

July 4

2548 ♂ *Mustela rixosa* 212-19-28-7 no fat -95.4
skeleton only, prepared August 4

Aug. 7

2549 ♂ *Mustela rixosa* 212-22-26-6 testes 7 mm. -100.0

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Arctic Research Laboratory - Pt. Barrow, Alaska

May 16 Arrived at 12 noon from Fairbanks in an Alaska Airways C-46, via Umiat. The air was calm and the sky partly obscured by a high overcast that increased to blot out the sun in late afternoon and evening. The air temperature had risen to 42° but the snow cover was nearly 100% from snow fallen yesterday. The sun rose on May 10 at 12:49 a.m. and has since been ~~visible~~ above the horizon. I spent the afternoon and evening at becoming oriented and unpacking. With Howard Craig I went out on the ice to the first pressure ridge. There is much comment about the rapid onset of spring weather, the eider flights, and the possibility of a rapid thaw in the near future. The sun will drop below the horizon on August 4 at 11:49 p.m.

May 17 Made early morning observations on snow buntings to the south of the buildings and returned several times to this area in the day, beginning a program of bunting and lemming trapping. I made two trips by weasel to the permafrost installations to examine the situation

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May 17 in that area. The day was overcast but mild with little wind. Cloudiness increased in late afternoon and by 8 p.m. a dense fog began to settle in from the north. This however, did not persist and had risen by 9:30 p.m.

May 18 I made several trips to the traps behind the lab. and also trapped lemmings near the permafrost installations. In midafternoon I went to Barrow Village to meet Alfred Hopson. In the evening I brought in all the mouse traps. This morning the sun shone brightly and was beginning to turn the shallower snow to slush and to extend the bare patches on open ground. The day turned progressively colder and was about 23° in midafternoon. There was a light to gentle northeasterly wind, overcast, and irregular swirling powdery snow.

May 19 The day was cold with a steady light to gentle N.E. wind. Overcast was complete but no snow fell. Puddles thawed the 1/8" ice covering but this began to form again by 5:30 p.m. I stayed indoors much of the time but made occasional excursions into the open behind the base.

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May 20 Point Barrow, Alaska - This morning the air was cold enough so that puddles about the base were frozen sufficiently so that one could walk upon them without breaking through. The day warmed enough for puddles to thaw but the light east wind made work in the open disagreeable. I worked the bird traps in the morning and went over the supply, equipment, and facility situation with Dr. Wiggins. In the afternoon I went out collecting and observing along the Village Road and on the tundra south of the permafrost installations. The ground is essentially fully snow-covered there, the recently bare patches having been covered by at least a thin drift of new snow. Overcast was complete all day but the northern horizon brightened in the evening, revealing the pressure ridges in bold outline against a pinkish and yellowish backdrop.

May 21 The east wind continued in light to gentle velocity. About 9 a.m. the overcast was noticeably lifting on the northeast horizon and the sun began

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May 21 Point Barrow, Alaska - to shine at 11 as the overcast continued westerly. All the afternoon and evening was clear and bright. As the sun dipped toward the northern horizon between 9 and 11 p.m. there was a distant broken cloud bank below it. In the morning I worked down the Village Road as far as the magnetic observatory, hunting and observing. A few ducks were visible moving east in the lead but they seemed to be feeding and leap-frogging. To trace the duck ~~fat~~ flights for the past week the following notes are offered. On May 16 which was sunny and fair, as I crossed the ice toward the first pressure ridge, that is about a mile out from the base, occasional flocks were proceeding up the point, over the lead, just beyond the ice pack. Between 4 and 5 p.m. I saw some 15 flocks which contained perhaps 50 to 150 birds each. There were shots every few minutes out in front of Barrow Village area, indicating that the Eskimos were hunting. Two flocks passed directly overhead and they appeared to be king eider.

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May 21 Point Barrow, Alaska - Since then there have been few or no ducks observed and very little hunting reported. The easterly wind, light snow and continuous overcast may have been factors that inhibit such movement. This evening from 8 to 11 when I made a trip to the lead there were 4 or 5 long strings of ducks, early in the period, far out in the lead, but none after that. In the afternoon I made the trip by weasel to Old Point Barrow, inspecting the site and its bird population. Secured a lone longspur foraging there. The gravel areas have frequent openings and on the point near the dwellings several spots of undisturbed ground are bare of snow, exposing the mosses, lichens and a few seed plants. Grasses are sparse there but plentiful on lower ground. The point is continuously eaten away by the sea and a vertical gravel bank is exposed about 10' above the ice. The erosion is working into the old sod and whale bone igloos and in past years may have destroyed many. Weather is usually below freezing.

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May 21 Point Barrow, Alaska - In Fairbanks on May 15 I noted the abundant aspen or cottonwood leafing out, with largest leaves about half grown. A frequent topic of conversation was this onset of spring. That area was snowfree in the valleys. Here there is the same situation in regard to season. Early migration of passerine birds is underway, with buntings numerous, a few longspurs, red polls, and a western pipit seen, and a single white crown sparrow and myrtle warbler.

May 22 At 4:30 a.m. the fog was down on the ground. It began to lift later on and the wind blew from the N.E. It appeared in midmorning that the fog would break but then the overcast became denser and there was an occasional swirl of snow in the steady wind. I remained indoors most of the time, preparing specimens and reviewing the activities of the past week.

May 23 The N.E. wind held steady all day and in the night there had been some powdery snow. It appeared for awhile in the morning that the weather would clear,

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 23 but it snowed on and off all day, with continuous drifting of the light precipitation. I set bird traps and worked indoors in the morning. From noon to 5 p.m. I went out to the vicinity of the gas well and the permafrost installation with O'Neil'hal. While he tended his instruments I hunted buntings and longspurs, and made general observations. The tundra has no openings now, but the dead vegetation is faintly visible at the polygon edges and higher ground generally. Nonetheless a few birds were out there, with 3 glaucous gulls, 3 longspurs, and a snowy owl seen.

May 24 The wind was only of light velocity or nearly calm early this morning, with the appearance that the overcast would break. However, the sun did not appear. Wind remained at a light velocity. A little snow fell but the temperature was above freezing much of the day. I operated the bird traps all day. In the afternoon I went out to the ridge and marsh area. Saw the first waterfowl over land, an unidentified loon. At 5:30 p.m. 2 ducks or small geese flew south over the base, uttering a goosilike clangor.

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 25 The day warmed up considerably and there was scarcely any wind. At 12:30 pm. the temperature was 46°. In late afternoon the light wind shifted from east to N.W. It was then snowing a little, as occurred several times in the day. Overcast was complete. Longspurs arrived in conspicuous numbers and the first robin, fox sparrow, and pomarine jaegers were detected. I trapped for banding at the east side of the base, observed bunting behavior, and made a collecting trip to the permafrost installation area in middle and late afternoon.

May 26 The night was not especially cold, with only a skim of ice or no ice forming on the thaw puddles of the base. The overcast was complete. 7:30 a.m. temperature 30°. At 8:15 a light snow drifted in from the north and at 8:30 temperature was reduced to 27°. The day was generally calm and overcast, becoming colder in the evening. At 7:30 pm. air temperature had dropped to 25° and a skim of ice was forming on some of the puddles. Thaw had proceeded much of the day. The first ruddy turnstone appeared and the shor

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 26 Eared owls remain conspicuous since arrival 2 days ago. Bird trapping was excellent and I had the traps open for 12 hours. Remained in the base area and hunted buntings among the drum stacks.

May 27 Temperature at 8 a.m. was 31°. There was more thaw today than on any previous day so that in going over ground where I walked yesterday in trapping birds I repeatedly crashed through the snow crust into slush below, for as deep as 18" below the snow surface. In the day I made general observations. Frank Pitelka came in from Berkeley this afternoon. We made a short excursion to the S.E., secured the first tree sparrow found this season, a longspur, and a bunting, and then Frank demonstrated his skinning technique on the 3 specimens. There were broken fog-like clouds most of the day so sunshine was prominent in developing the thaw.

May 28 There was considerable sun today with low fog-like clouds on the horizon and sometimes overhead. The east wind was of gentle velocity and quite steady.

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 28 There was an occasional fall of powdery snow and this was drifting continuously like sand over the open tundra. Tracks were half filled less than an hour after they were made in the snow pack. Trapped birds in the base area, finding the longspurs abundant and quite readily entering. Visited the study areas with Frank Pitelka. Snow cover is thin at the higher ground with grasses just covered but visible, and snow cover complete. Bird activity has ~~noticed~~ noticeably increased there with longspurs in small groups, a wheatear, several pomarine jaegers, and about 5 snowy owls seen in 3 hours. At 5 p.m. a flock of about 50 to 60 eiders swept over the base at a low altitude and swung out over the sea ice, changing from ~~N.W.~~ East to N.W. in direction. Eider flights have been invisible from the base and not likely great. On the evening of May 25 there was frequent shooting of shotguns out north of Barrow Village may have indicated some duck movements at that time. Thawing proceeded noticeably on disturbed ground about the base, with break through of the snowcrust to slush

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 28 pools on low ground making walking somewhat treacherous there.

May 29 There was a heavy hoar frost this morning. At 8 a.m. temperature was 25°. There was a fairly steady light east wind. The sky was partly obscured by low indistinct foggy clouds but the sun shown ~~most~~ nearly all of the time. It was warm out of the wind though thawing was not prominent because of low temperatures. Bird traps were operated all day. A start was made toward locating buntings that are established on territories. In the afternoon with Frank Pitelka I made a trip to Barrow Village where we met Alfred Hopson and discussed arrangements for lemming trapping. A walk of about a mile out on the sea ice to the lead brought us to a whale carcass which the eskimos were busily butchering. This was a bowhead, a late caught one, for the main season was over in early May. Later we went out on the tundra south of the base. Bird life is picking up there with a distinctly greater activity than even a week ago. Occasionally the snow cover is broken on irregular ground but miles of tundra are solidly white with snow. Glaucous gulls, pom-

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May 29 Point Barrow, Alaska

arine jaegers, snowy owls all appear to be on the tundra to feed on lemmings, which are abundant beneath the snow. There is slight activity of these mammals above the snow and at the bare spots they are commonly seen.. Longspurs foraged at snowfree areas, but occurred in numbers only near the inhabited places where the ground is disturbed and melt off accelerated. Eider flights were sporadic over the lead and over the sea ice but likely several thousand birds moved north today. In middle part of the afternoon we saw several flocks of 50 to 200 birds, one large group was crossing the spit to Elson Lagoon.

May 30 The day was solidly overcast. 8 a.m. temperature 25°; rose to 31° at 2 pm. A gentle east wind blew steadily. Observed buntings on the study area at the base, and in late afternoon set traps for one round of banding. Longspur flocks were close in and trapping success was excellent among the buildings at the east fringe of them. A fox sparrow seen yesterday remains but no new birds were encountered. Spent much of the day indoors writing up accounts and records. The wind continued into the night and seemed to occasionally reach moderate velocity.

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May 31 Point Barrow, Alaska

8 a.m. temperature 26°, sky solidly overcast, and a 15 to 22 knot wind blowing. Temperature rose to 31° in early afternoon but wind did not subside until about dinner time. Calm at 10 p.m. with fog hanging low. Frank and I trapped birds and observed buntings on territories, but remained out of the weather much of the time and worked over some frozen lemmings obtained in April. We each put up two skins of them. The weather seemed to reduce bird activity and to keep the longspur flocks close in.

June 1 8 a.m. temperature 37° and air still all night. Cumulus overcast breaking and dispersing, really a pleasant morning. The day turned actually warm and the tundra snow lost its crispness, turning wet by mid-afternoon and collapsing where thin and undermined by lemmings. Through the day there was no wind. The sky was partly obscured by haziness and cirrus formations that dimmed the sunlight variably. After observing the buntings about the base I went with Frank Pitelka between 9:30 and noon to Bernik, ~~or~~ and old Barrow Village on the point. Here we collected and made general observations. Saw 1 tree

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June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska

sparrow, 1 ruddy turnstone, that I shot, 4 or 5 Baird sandpipers (1 taken), 3 hoary redpolls, several flocks of old squaws, and about 10 flocks of eiders. In the afternoon we went out on the tundra about 3 miles south of the base, making general observations, starting a lemming census, and collecting longspurs. Saw a willow ptarmigan, 2 red-backed sandpipers, 3 snowy owls (nest with clutch of 6 eggs located), one short-eared owl (1 or 2 seen on morning trip), jaegers moving about and well spaced generally in pairs, 3 glaucous gulls, occasional snow buntings in pairs, longspurs scattered over the tundra usually in pairs and with nest material display by ♂ in evidence. There has been a definite movement of birds onto the tundra and this is most obvious among shore birds that are just arriving.

June 2 8 am. temp. 37° at the armory, with sun shining but overcast closing over. The day remained mild and the snow was still soft, with melt off in progress. There was a light to gentle west wind, that changed to gentle in the evening. Today made a trip to 40 acre longspur study area to measure snow cover.

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June 2 Point Barrow, Alaska
Trapped birds at the base, and also made a trip south to the snowy owl nest. Paul Heard came at noon on the line haul. The overcast was low much of the day, screening the view of waterfowl that may have been migrating. A light sprinkle of rain fell for a few minutes in late afternoon.

June 3 8 a.m. temperature 33°. The sky was 100% overcast and remained heavily so all day, but the air was mild and wind calm to light, from the west. Snow melt-off continued. The morning I spent in the base area, making general observations, trapping birds, and watching snow buntings on their territories. Frank, Paul, and I went out to the ridge in the afternoon to observe the emerging tundra situation. Bird movements are at a high rate at this time, with continuous shift of migrants through the area.

June 4 8 a.m. temperature 34°, sky overcast and light east wind. Overcast remained complete but variable through the day and the wind calm to light from the east. The air was mild. This morning I watched nesting and territorial activities of the buntings, and examined a catch of lemmings with Frank Pitelka. In the afternoon we went out on the tundra

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June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska

southeast of Barrow Village and toward the base. Melt-off continues and has exposed as much as 70% or 80% of the ground in some areas. On the average the snow has receded from an estimated 40% or 50% of the surface. The large lemming population is thus revealed in the extensive remaining cut, dry vegetation which they foraged in through the winter. New species observed today were Sabine gull and least weasel. Occasional flocks of migrant eiders were seen.

June 5 Temperature 42° in middle part of the day, sky overcast, brighter through the morning than in the afternoon, although snow fell for half an hour after 7:45 a.m. A light east wind blew variably. There was sporadic northward movement of waterfowl over the base. I made no field trip beyond the drum area. Traps for banding were in operation all day. I watched the breeding activity, and hunted in the drum area for new species. A small flock of pintail ducks was seen. Shore birds generally are becoming common as small pools and ponds develop in the thawed areas.

June 6 8 a.m. temperature 37°; light west wind, sky heavily and solidly overcast. In the afternoon the sky was clear to the north and east and sunlight was

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June 6 Point Barrow, Alaska

fairly bright. By midafternoon sky was clear, and sun was bright at midnight. A light west wind blew in the evening. Frequent gunshot near the village indicated ducks were passing up the lead. Occasional flocked passed in view of the base, generally over land. Frank and I operated bird traps today in the drum area and observed buntings on territory. The first longspur egg was found today. Prepared skins of 2 weasels and 2 phalaropes. The least weasel has begun to appear among the dispersing lemmings.

June 7 8 a.m. temperature 37°, sky clear, air mild with no wind. This morning I watched buntings, wrote up notes, and observed lemmings, all near the base. In the afternoon the three of us went to Teuruk, to collect buntings and to review the outdoor conditions there. New species for this season were arctic tern and long-tailed jaeger. A first positive identification of loons was made when 4 Pacifics flew over. The sky was clouded after noon, the wind blowing in gentle velocity from the east. Late in the evening clearing resumed and wind was slack. The dispersal of lemmings continues, as notes under the brown lemming indicate.

June 8 8 a.m. temperature 30°, sky just clouding over, but the clouds moved on and the day was generally

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June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
sunny and mild, with a light northeast wind. I spent most of the day in the field, in the morning on a trip 2 mi. S of. Britton Wangan, and in the afternoon with Max Brewer to Ikrowik Lake. Snow seems to be receding at a slightly lower rate inland, and the ground is perhaps 40% covered now. The drainage ways are flowing heavily and pond water is rapidly collecting, or the snow melt is standing where there is no drainage. Vegetation is heavily used up everywhere by lemmings. A species I have seen for the first time is the Steller eider. From 9:30 to 11 p.m. I went to the vicinity of Browik. Collected two short-eared owls and observed changes in lemming abundance, since yesterday.

June 9 8 a.m. temperature 29°, sky clear, light east wind. As yesterday morning there was a film of ice on ponds away from the buildings. I spent the day in the base area, making observations and also prepared specimens secured yesterday. The day remained clear and wind blew all day from the east. Thawing proceeded at a good rate.

June 10 8 a.m. temperature 28°, gentle east wind that had blown in the night. Sky thinly marked with cirrus formations but sun bright. Cloudiness closed over and remained to block or screen

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June 10 Point Barrow, Alaska
the sun nearly all the time. In the morning we went to central marsh and the ridge to collect samples of lemmings, which run about freely on the ground surface at this time. Bill Thompson arrived on the linehaul so the afternoon was devoted largely to his orientation, and to observation of buntings.

June 11 8 a.m. temperature 33°. sky largely overcast but clearing in the afternoon. A gentle east wind blew steadily. I spent the day mainly at observing bunting territories, but in the evening attended the Village whale festival activities. A fog lowered at 5 p.m. and remained, generally completely obscuring the sun, for most of the night.

June 12 8 a.m. temperature 32°; sky with some haze and cirrus formations, but the sun was bright for much of the day. Fog closed in in the night. In the morning I watched bunting activity with Thompson and spent the afternoon in the field on the census plots. A species I had not seen before was Black brant, 2 of which were on the 20-acre study area. Snow is still receding. Over the central marsh where it is essentially all gone heat refraction waves were so intense in early afternoon that from the 40 acre plot the ridge across toward the radio station was completely blurred and scarcely distinguishable

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June 13 Point Barrow, Alaska

Heavy low overcast in the morning, with temperature near freezing and gentle to moderate east wind. The clouds broke in late morning and the afternoon was generally clear, but the kept blowing. migration is not now pronounced. I saw no flights of waterfowl; one flock of eiders yesterday over central marsh. One white-crowned sparrow at base today. In late morning I hunted snow buntings at Britton wanigan, but spent the day mainly at the base watching bunting activity.

June 14 The weather was severe today with a generally solid and low overcast and a gentle to moderate east wind. The day was continuously cold. Longspurs and Baird sandpipers frightened from their full clutches of eggs on beach ridge were anxious to return to them, and did so almost immediately. Snowy owls concentrated in the shelter of the drum area where they rested behind objects that would shield them from the wind, such as drums, drum stacks, high polygons, or mounds of earth. Bill Thompson and I watched snow buntings from 8 to 10 a.m.; I then counted lemmings in the drum area. Here I not in marshy places at the edges of shallow pools that green shoots, commonly trimmed at the tips by lemmings, seem to be growing and project often 1/4" to 1/2" out of the mud

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June 14 Point Barrow, Alaska
and litter like a sparsely-bristled brush. In the afternoon Bill and I walked in from the beach ridge, finding as many nests as we could along the way. (3 Baird sandpiper, 2 longspur, and 1 short-eared owl. Temperature at 8 p.m. was 32°, about the same, it seemed, as through the day.

June 15 8 a.m. temperature 30°, overcast 100% as a low hanging fog, wind gentle from the east. Sky stayed overcast but the air warmed somewhat and the wind slowed to a light velocity in late afternoon. Watched bunting activity in morning. In afternoon to Nuwuk for general observation and bunting collecting. There I saw the first flowering plants of the season, a Ranunculus and Cochlearia. These were in small clumps of vegetation established in the gravel of the high ground, evidently having been warmed sufficiently by heat of sunlight absorbed by the gravel. There were no flocks of migrant waterfowl; the migration likely is over by now.

June 16 There was a light rain at 7 a.m. but it soon was over except for a few sprinkles before noon. The clouds remained irregular but screened the sun all day. The horizon was clear much of the time, particularly to the north and west. A gentle east wind blew and the air was not cold.

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June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska

The day was spent by Pitelka, Thompson, and me on a trip by weasel with Max Brewer to Barrow #3, which is the abandoned site of a dry well about 10 miles south of the navy base. The trip extended between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m., in which time we were almost constantly traveling, except for a and one 1/2 hour stop at the well from 4:30 to 6 pm. We saw much of the country in our wanderings, particularly for several miles to the N.E. of the well when directions were temporarily lost. We stopped whenever there was some object of interest, and to collect specimens and examine nests when it was desirable. The trip was really a grand tour of the inland area and exposed much that was new, to our views. The terrain appeared the same as that adjacent to the base. Bird species encountered included Pacific Loon, pintail, old squaw, white-fronted goose, black brant, Steller eider, king eider, spectacled eider, golden plover, Baird sandpiper, red-backed sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, red phalarope, pomerine jaeger, parasitic jaeger, glaucous gull, arctic tern, snowy owl, long-eared owl, Lapland longspur, snow bunting. Mammals included arctic fox (1 dead picked up), least weasel, and brown lemming. In general the animal life seemed to be about the same in proportion to occurrence within 2 miles of the base. A nest of a glaucous

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June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska
gull was of special significance as it was the first discovered by this project. Frequency of caribou skulls and antlers seemed greater than near the ocean. Occasional willows stood up 6" or 8" tall, and one patch of grass several acres in extent is the only stand I have found anywhere that had not been mowed by lemmings last winter.

June 17 Wrote up notes in the morning; spent the afternoon searching for nests and marking them, on beach ridge. Walked home and censused lemmings in the drum area. Evening, as is frequent, was spent preparing specimens. The day was mild with a light east wind, sky clear except for clouds to south and west.

June 18 Snow melt had proceeded remarkably in the past 2 days with several drifts near the base disappearing completely. The day was mild and sunny with cloudiness on the northern horizon and partly overhead, in late afternoon. In the morning I censused plot L.E. In the afternoon I wrote up notes and prepared specimens. It was a mild evening so most of our group went to Barrow Village to observe the Nalookatuk celebration, or whale feast.

June 19 8 a.m. temperature 34°, sky broken by overcast, as yesterday the wind was light to gentle and from the west. The morning was

Journal

June 19 Point Barrow, Alaska
devoted to locating jaeger nests, and the afternoon to censusing the marsh plot. The marsh area is generally soggy and draining. The grass has been heavily and almost completely mown by the lemmings. Much of this has accumulated near the main drainage in long masses, where it has floated on the melt water before the drainway thawed. Thus large areas of the marsh are swept of the loose chaff and the growing tips and green stubs of shoots pruned by the lemmings are fully exposed. In some places this makes the surface of the marsh faintly green.

June 20 In late morning I hunted longspurs just S. of Britton with Hurd + Pitelka
wanigan, along the saltwater lake toward village. The afternoon I spent with Thompson locating nests on beach ridge and the S.W. part of central marsh. Weather mild, light W. wind.

June 21 There was wind in the night and a high fog hung over the coast all day. The west wind was gentle to moderate all day. Morning spent indoors on records and afternoon at censusing plot L.E. There was rain early yesterday morning, which I did not mention. A flock of about 20 ducks over the ocean was headed west in direct flight at 2 p.m.

Journal

June 22 Point Barrow, Alaska
Low overcast and west wind, drifting mist has dampened the gravel in the night. The overcast remained low and in the afternoon it began to descend, first as mist, and at 3:30 p.m. as light rain which stopped by 5 p.m. In the morning I went to Voth's Station where I censused lemmings, checked a snowy owl nest, and gathered some eggs for Bob Roth. In the afternoon with Bill Thompson I collected some lemmings by hand and marked jaeger nests between the salt water lagoon and pipeline.

June 23 Low overcast and light to gentle variable wind from the west. After 10 a.m. the mist began to precipitate and there was sporadic drizzling until evening. In late morning I made a tour of the drum area with Thompson and in the afternoon I censused L.E. while Hurd and Pitelka worked on the ridge. At the fresh water lake we saw 2 Ross gulls, both of which we managed to collect. I skinned one and Frank prepared the other as a skeleton.

June 24 Went in late morning on a loon hunt along Village Road after writing up yesterday's notes. A yellow-billed loon was taken by Pitelka, the first I have seen. In the afternoon I did a census of plot L.E. and searched for nests on adjacent territory. To date 14 nests have

Journal

June 24 Point Barrow, Alaska

been located, one on the plot and 13 near it, largely on irregular at each end of the plot. Nests include 3 black brant, 4 pomarine jaeger, 2 Steller eider, 1 pintail duck, 2 short-eared owl, 1 longspur, 1 phalarope, the last mentioned on the plot. The day was overcast but without precipitation. It was mild with a light to gentle west wind, temperature 45° in mid day on an outdoor thermometer. There was considerable shooting by eskimos and waterfowl were flying more than for many days.

June 25 There was a fresh west wind all day that caused considerable shifting of the icepack. The pressure ridge remained essentially the same but there was occasional buckling and general disturbance in it. Cakes of ice were shoved as far as 60' out on the beach at the Navy Base and the thaw strip along the beach was closed. In the intermediate area between beach and the ridge there were many small eruptions of the ice with discontinuous masses and small ridges of ice blocks cast up. The day was sunny but the wind discouraged field work. I counted lemmings in the drum area in late morning. In the afternoon Pitelka, Thompson, and I began to census the marsh plot but because of the interference by wind we gave this up. Wind slackened in late afternoon and overcast moved in.

Journal

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska

The morning was clearing and mild and the day turned warm with scarcely any overcast, particularly in afternoon and evening. In morning with Frank Pitelka I went to the south part of central marsh to census jaegers and locate their nests. Ice has disappeared from the 2 small lakes at S. end of the marsh, in the past few days. Disturbance of the water by the wind yesterday apparently caused the last of the surface ice to melt. The water was too roily for determination of subsurface ice. We censused the marsh plot in the afternoon. The two principle grasses there have grown in places as much as 3" to 4". Nearly all the water has drained, insofar as it will, from the marsh. In evening paid visit to snowy owl nest #3, discovered this morning, and examined the site carefully, with Pitelka and Thompson. Phalaropes collected by Pitelka along the route.

June 27 In the morning I delivered Hurd to Brittain wanigan via snowy owl nest #1 where we collected longspurs for stomach examination. I continued the collecting at the lake shore S.W. of Brittain; then returned and wrote up notes. In the afternoon I censused plot L.E. while Pitelka censused L.W. and while

Journal

June 27 Point Barrow, Alaska
Thompson checked nests west on the beach ridge. The day was brokenly overcast by cirrus and cumulus formations but there was much sunlight and the air was mild. A gentle W. wind blew all day.

June 28 Overcast all day with light to gentle west wind. In late afternoon there was precipitating fog and for a time, large snow flakes. Spent the day generally indoors, but went in the evening with Pitelka to look for a snowy owl reported near the Magnetic Observatory.

June 29 In the night snow fell enough to nearly cover the ground but this quickly melted off after 7 a.m. Overcast remained all day and a N.W. wind blew in light to gentle velocities. In late morning I made a lemming census in the drum area. In afternoon censused plot L.E. with Pitelka and Thompson, and searched for nests along the inlet near there.

June 30 The day was overcast and cold, with some light snow in the morning. Light wind, westerly. I spent the day generally indoors, sorting notes and prepared one weasel. In the afternoon I inspected bunting nests in drum area. We made no trips by weasel for our vehicle has been in for repairs. Two kinds of Ranunculus are now commonly in flower.

Journal

July 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
With bird trapping resumed today I assisted in late morning with arranging some of the traps in the drum area. In afternoon Pitelka and I censused the marsh plot. The day was clearing and mild, with sunshine in the later part.

July 2 Remained in quarters with a cold. O.N.R. inspection team arrived. In late afternoon and at night there was light to moderate rain accompanied by wind.

July 3 Overcast and west wind. Remained indoors most of the day but did venture out in late afternoon to assist with bird banding in the drum area.

July 4 Overcast with faint sprinkle of snow at 7 a.m., gentle west wind. Light rain in afternoon and evening with sporadic flurries of snow about dinner time. In morning with Wm. Thompson I censused lemmings on beach ridge, checked bird nests and captured lemmings, making the trip on foot. Afternoon to Vath Station by weasel with Thompson, counted lemmings, collected a pair of jaegers and some longspurs. Pedicularis is now in flower on high bare polygons of that area, the first I have seen. This morning I found a Polygonaceae in flower on the Beach Ridge. Scraps of icy snow a few feet across along gully at Vath's Station.

Journal

July 5 Point Barrow, Alaska
The day was overcast with drifting mist in midafternoon. Remained at the base in the morning, in afternoon censused plot L.E. The overcast, rain, a little snow, and the cold weather of the past several days seem to have slowed somewhat the development of the vegetation. The sky cleared by 10 p.m. with a rainbow-like apparition, gray or fog-like in color and appearance, on the horizon opposite the sun. This, as observed at 10:15 pm, may have been due to a haze on the northwestern horizon.

July 6 The day was overcast with sporadic drifting of mist, and snow. Wind from the south was gentle for much of the day but from late morning to mid-afternoon it was moderate with fresh gusts. Field work was hampered by the weather. Bird banding was done with traps open from 0745 to 2100. We made a trip to snowy owl nest #3 in late afternoon, at the S. end of Central Marsh.

July 7 Milder today but with some drifting snow. The overcast was broken much of the time. Set bird traps and made drum area lemming counts in the morning. Afternoon spent on trip to Nuwuk and to Eluitkak Pass. Last night the ice began to move up along

Journal

July 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
the beach and by 9 a.m. there was a definite lead about from the N.W. end of camp and on up the ~~wo~~ way as far as I could see. The pressure ridge remained. Ice floes were visibly moving and the shifting of ice was indicated by the garbage dump, some of which remained grounded on beach ice but other portions of which were strewn to the N.E. as far as 1/4 mile and as much as 200 yards offshore. Floes were abundant in the water of the lead. At Nuwuk in the afternoon ice was brushing against the north point of land so that a dense jam formed there but there was steady movement of ice just offshore. At the village site the water was fairly open, with bergs and floes drifting at several knots per hour. There was a steady movement of birds just offshore and along the beach, against the N.W. gentle wind. This seemed partly a result of the beginning of return migration as well as because of the fair weather following a week of overcast, wind, & rain.

July 8 L.L. Wiggins reports that the tundra is well behind last year's schedule in greenness. The day was partly overcast with cirrus and cumulus clouds but there was considerable sun. The

Journal

July 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
west wind was cold and of gentle velocity. Evening's clouds brought a shower of rain and snow for a few minutes. In the morning I assisted with checking bird traps in drum area and collected species of plants flowering there. Afternoon spent on beach ridge in study of lemming habitat.

July 9 Broken and hazy overcast with considerable sunlight. Gentle to moderate west wind loosened some ice from the pack down the beach toward the village and it drifted up the lead past the base. In the morning I collected longspurs toward Barrow Village and in the afternoon made general observations in Central Marsh.

July 10 A moderate west wind blew until evening. Morning was bright and clear but low clouds, a foggy overcast, moved just after noon. When the wind stopped there was a few minutes rain, large heavy drops, and the fog then settled among the buildings. In the morning with Bill Thompson I captured lemmings and examined their nests, in the area behind the base toward the beach ridge and lagoon. Afternoon census of plot L. E. with Frank Pitelka. Flocking of phalaropes in hundreds along the beach there indicates an abundance of non-breeding birds.

Journal

July 11 Point Barrow, Alaska
This morning I stayed about the lab. writing up notes, but also assisted with bird trapping in the drum area. In the afternoon I made two trips to the Beach Ridge and worked on lemming specimens in the lab.

July 12 Weather mild, partly overcast, light west wind. Through the middle part of the morning I checked nests on the ridge behind A.A.C.S., and also operated bird traps in the drum area. Afternoon spent at censusing part of the marsh plot and making general observations in that area; also made trip to Nuwuk, 1-2:30pm.

July 13 Overcast with traces of snow in the air in early and late morning, light east wind. With Pitelka I examined the bird traps at 8 a.m, for they were left open since last night. We then spent the morning examining lemmings in the laboratory, continued this activity into the afternoon, made a trip to snowy owl nest #2, and tended the bird traps in the evening. There was snow in the evening for an hour or more, but this melted on contact with the ground.

July 14 Hazy overcast, light to gentle east wind. In the morning I wrote up notes. Afternoon spent in the field, censusing central marsh, with Frank Pitelka and Bill Thompson.

Journal

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
Overcast, essentially no sun today, but the air was unusually still with a light easterly breeze through most of the day. In early morning there was fog and the ocean was glassy. In the morning I wrote notes and took a lemming census in drum area. In afternoon I censused plot L.E. while Frank worked on L.W. Then we went to snowy owl nest #3 and the central marsh lakes, making general observations and collecting phalaropes. This week waterfowl are rapidly hatching.

July 16 The day was overcast with a light east wind, and mild. Sky began clearing in evening. I set the bird traps in the morning and then with Pitelka and Thompson I went to Vathi Station where we censused lemmings, collected longspurs, and checked the snowy owl nest. Afternoon spent generally about the lab. and on a trip to the beach. A wide lead extends from the shore nearly to the old pressure ridge which is all but obliterated. The pack ice is dense and tumbled about along the road toward the village, without a visible lead.

July 17 Today was clear with an east gentle wind. We operated drum area bird traps but otherwise I spent little time in the field. In the

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July 17 Point Barrow, Alaska
morning I went with Pitelka and Thompson to the lemming exclosures to make photographs. In late afternoon I went to the beach ridge to pick up Hurd. Eiders have been flying in large numbers this past week, crossing the spit at Birnik and keeping well out over the ocean when passing the base. The lemming investigators have been keeping a periodic watch at Birnik to tally the ducks by species, numbers, and time of day.

July 18 Last evening became overcast and a gentle to moderate S.E. wind blew this morning. The overcast extended to neither east or west horizon and the sky gradually cleared in the east. However, there was little sunshine until late afternoon. Fog moved in about 7pm. and it lay close about the base, the wind having died down. There was some settling of the mist and the east wind was blowing later in the evening. Today we operated the bird traps, checking them at 0900, 1400, and 2300, having left them open last night. In the afternoon I went to the beach ridge to check nests, having been delayed by the weasel's coil going out of commission on the first try to get into the field. In the morning we examined lemmings in laboratory.

Journal

July 19 Point Barrow, Alaska

This afternoon I went with Wilimovsky to Deadman's Island, crossing from the spit by motor boat. The water was rough and as it turned out I was allowed only 45 min. to inspect the entire island. The island now embraces the two sandbars beyond Doctor Island for the three (Deadman's + 2 bars) are now continuous. We landed at the west end and I proceeded rapidly on foot nearly to the other end in ½ hour; then I returned more quickly to join the party at the boat. Arctic terns, Sabine gulls, and glaucous gulls were the common birds. The island surface is gravelly sand with driftwood scattered over it. Evidently the entire island is awash during the occasional fall storms. I found near the middle a sharply raised mound about 12' long and 6' wide and nearly 4' high. This was of sand, bound together by a coarse-leaved grass. A lump of sand about 2' across beside this had a dense stand of a pale green chick-weed like plant on it. I saw no other vegetation except two other smaller adjacent patches of this latter plant. The arctic terns were nesting for I found one chick. We stopped for 15 minutes on Doctor Island, which is similar, without vegetation, and there I found 2 tern chicks. Ice

Journal

July 19 Point Barrow, Alaska
of the lagoon has drifted to the N.W. shores. There are only occasional pieces N.E. of Nuvuk and a small amount lodged along the beach toward the Elvitkak Pass. The day was warm and sunny, with some high variable cloudiness that increased toward the evening. A gentle S. wind blew and the first swarms of mosquitos appeared, apparently from inland.

July 20 The day was overcast with sprinkles of rain in the afternoon and evening, but the sun was shining around 9:30 to 11 p.m. when it dipped below the overcast. This morning I worked on yesterday's collected specimens and also examined lemmings that Hopson brought in. In afternoon made a trip to L.E., finding that nesting is completed there. The most striking feature of the tundra today was the rapid advance that bede of <u>Petasites frigidus</u> made in the past three days. Red leaves have turned green and have enlarged, and flowers are commonly in full bloom.

July 21 Ice drifted into the open water in front of the base yesterday, but it moved out in the night. On July 19 the first ship of the season, the ice-breaker Burton Island, appeared off Barrow Village. Today was mild, generally overcast, and with a light wind.

Journal

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska

The air was calm in the evening so that the fresh water lake was slick at 9:30 p.m. Through the day eider flights were frequent and the greatest movements that I have witnessed were underway. We operated the bird traps and on the 4 p.m. checking of them eider flocks were about every 3 to 5 minutes, in size from 50 to about 300 birds. One flock passed over the drum area and I could see that they were kings, only a few females among them. 7 lights generally were offshore about 1/2 mile after passing across the spit in the vicinity of Beirnie where the birds sometimes were shot at by Eskimos. The day was absorbed in working over and disposing of 4 snowy owls, young from nest #3, and in Frank Pitelka's departure from A.R.L.

July 22 The ocean in the lead in front of the base was glass-smooth through the morning. Sky was hazy and with some high cumulus clouds. At noon in spite of the calm and slick water an occasional ice block was floating up the beach toward Nuwuk at speeds about half as fast as I could walk, indicating a current, and not wind pressure, was carrying the ice. This seems to account for the statement of persons here that the ice always moves toward Nuwuk when it breaks up.

Journal

July 22 Point Barrow, Alaska
Thompson and I operated bird traps in drum area. In the morning we went to snowy owl nest #3 with Max Brewer and examined specimens and wrote up notes in afternoon. Light rain from south in the evening.

July 23 Collected lemmings and phalaropes in Central Marsh this morning. Small ponds have receded greatly and some are reduced to soggy masses of vegetable material in which the Arctophylla and a Ranunculus (this latter just in first blooming) are abundant. One sinks about a foot in the ponds, apparently to the ice table below. Many ponds, of course, have much water in them but in general its level has dropped.

July 24 Bird traps were operated all day in drum area. In the afternoon we examined lemmings and the birds collected this morning.
In the morning Thompson and I went to the south shore of the salt water lagoon where we collected birds for Hurd, and where I made lemming counts. Afternoon we went to the beach ridge, collecting and counting lemmings. Only one nest is still active here, that of a short-eared owl. The weather remains mild with almost continuous overcast, fog over the ice and light winds. The warm rain yesterday caused disappearance of the ice from the

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July 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
fresh water lake. Two days before there was ice covering on about 1/4 the surface. The ice had several times in the past week drifted to various edges of the lake, driven by the shifting winds.

July 25 The day was cool and partly overcast, but the evening was decidedly chilly. Spent the day about the laboratory and base, writing up notes, preparing specimens, and on short excursions to the drum area.

July 26 Frost in the night but the day was mild, partly overcast, and generally sunny. Bird traps in operation. Thompson and I went to the area beyond the airport in the morning where we collected snow buntings. Afternoon spent in censusing Central Marsh plot.

July 27 Day partly overcast, generally by haze and high broken clouds, light to gentle east winds. Bird trapping absorbed much of the day and we did not go into the field by weasels. Examined lemmings, wrote up notes, and made local observations. First ships of the Barex operation passed by on their way to Barter Island.

July 28 Day mild and sunny with some hazy cloudiness mainly on the south western lower portion of the sky. Light to gentle east wind.

Journal

July 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
Bird trapping carried out all day. Also wrote up notes and prepared and examined specimens. Late afternoon to ridge for general observation and checking nests. Evening to Birnik with R. Pierson for a 1-hour observation of the eider flights. Birds were coming over in groups as large as 225, mixed King and Pacific, almost all males. About 2000 birds passed over in the hour. Flights were seen at all hours of the day and seemed to be about as frequent as at in the hour of watching.

July 29 The day was clear, warm, sunny, and generally calm. This tended to accentuate the increasing dryness of the tundra. Many mossy places that have until recently been soggy or water covered are dry or only moist. This morning I went to Voth Station area and made general observations, counted lemmings, and examined short-eared owl nests. Inlet has ceased to flow and is without continuous water beyond the end of the beverage antenna. In the afternoon I left Thompson and Hurd on Beach Ridge - 100 traps set there for Dicrostonyx - and went to L.E. which I briefly censused. Also went on to the Brant Point area. Jaeger concentration

Journal

July 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
observed there. Only occasional eider flocks passing by through midafternoon. Caught two male weasels today.

July 30 This morning I checked the traps on Beach Ridge (L.W), and found one Dicrostonyx trapped. Prepared specimen and wrote up notes. With Thompson I went to the Central Marsh area in the afternoon to examine the known nests, particularly those of the short-eared owl. Another warm day with only light winds. The tundra is noticeably dry at the surface. We found occasional Arctophylla ponds that dry.

July 31 Day warm and mild, with evening overcast and rain to the west, light winds. Spent the day at bird-banding in the drum area, after visiting lemming traps on Beach Ridge, for the longspur flocking has stepped up the catch to great proportions. We banded about 85 new longspurs; buntings also abundant.

Aug. 1 Trapping continued through the day until evening when an approaching thunder storm arrived. There was moderate rain. Thunder rolled in midafternoon for some time but seemed to be drifting to sea from south. Then at dinner time there were several loud rumblings and the rain started. Overcast all day after fog in

Journal

Aug. 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
the night and early morning. Visited traps on Beach Ridge in morning.

Aug. 2 The rain was light but continuous through the night and stopped only in late morning, but the sky remained overcast. Wind from N. and N.E. Remained indoors in the morning except for a trip to Britton Manor. Afternoon to the Village to visit Mr. Hopson and enjoyed a long session of his accounts of life in the far north.

Aug. 3 Overcast and with a little powdery snow swirling from the N.E. on the gentle wind. Last evening water froze in small containers outdoors. Went to beach ridge to move traps set there for <u>Dicrostonyx</u>; then hunted lemmings and red phalaropes in Central Marsh. Some of the soggy surface material of the marsh was lightly frozen. Water conditions, with yesterday's rain, have returned about to those of July 1. Operated bird traps at the animal house. Examined bird material, made skins, and cleaned up the lab. in the afternoon.

Aug. 4 Overcast with sprinkle of rain in the night. Ice has been gradually clearing on the ocean because of the N.E. wind. This morning the pressure ridge remnants have been declared gone and only scattered cakes of ice float offshore. Beach loading operations in progress

Journal

Aug. 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
for the past 2 days. Morning spent in lab. and in drum area where I censused lemmings. Afternoon to Beach Ridge to census and collect lemmings. The day turned mild with light wind and broken clouds.

Aug. 5 Sprinkle of rain in the night. Sun set for the first time last night since May 11. Day mild with clouds breaking in afternoon, light to gentle south wind. Ocean now open, since yesterday, to boat traffic between Village and Nuvuk. Trapped birds on grid. Made trip to Beach Ridge in afternoon to examine lemming traps there, and collected longspurs.

Aug. 6 Overcast but mild to chilly with rain and mist in the morning. Bird trapping absorbed the entire day.

Aug. 7 Bird trapping completely overshadowed all other activities. Late in evening went to Birnik to aid in removing fish from net.

Aug. 8 Cleaned up lab. from bird-banding activity, went with Rausch, who arrived yesterday afternoon, to Central Marsh and Beach Ridge on a general survey tour. Afternoon at preparing specimens and packing. Went to Birnik with Paul in early evening to take fish out of net. This was the night of the big Lab. / Fish Fry.

Journal

Aug. 9 Point Barrow, Alaska
Cleaned up lab. in the morning. Afternoon to Village with Rausch, returning inland to find the area between Village and Voth's Station devoid of lemmings, short-eared owls, and jaegers. No sun for about 5 days, weather mild with fog and variable overcast, some rain.

Aug. 10 Brought in fish net from Lagoon last evening, got Rausch off on walrus hunt with Hopson, and finished frozen lemmings. Slept in this morning. Bird traps operating (AH, and AB portion of grid) with good catch. In midafternoon went to marsh plot and ridge, made general observations and collected fish sample from head of Wohlachlag Slough for Wilimovsky.

Aug. 11 Rain in the night as last night, fog drifting. Worked bird traps with Bill and did some packing. Went to Village for part of the afternoon to pick up Rausch and aided in examination and butchering of 2 polar bears and several walruses taken by a Hopson expedition off Skull Cliff. Ice moved in to the beach early today on light to gentle ~~x~~ N.W. wind which shifted last night from the east to north breezes we have been having. Overcast complete all day.

Tomich, Q. P.

1953

Alaska

Eskimo Notes

Jonich
1953

Eskimo notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 In a week among the inhabitants of this region I have encountered many interesting things about them. These should be recorded before they escape. The Arctic Research Laboratory employs 5 eskimos as carpenters, maintainence men, guides, and laboratory assistants. The present staff includes Adam Leavitt, Pete Sovalik, Chester Lampe, Ronald Coates, and Oliver James. There is considerable dilution of the original stock as a general thing among the Barrow Villagers, but they are essentially eskimos. A number of them also work for Arctic Contractors, in fact, enough in all so that a separate mess wing is supplied them. Many or all live in the village 4 miles down the coast and travel back and forth to work in a truck with huge balloon tires to traverse the ice, snow, or loose beach gravel, whichever the roadway happens to be for the season or day. Ronald Coates is a full blood eskimo and his features are more angularly oriental than those of the others who tend to have

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 rounded faces. These 4 men are older, in their 40's or perhaps more, and all speak good English. Ronald is younger, perhaps only about 20, shy, less sure of his English and not associating with the others very much. He is a field and lab. assistant to the University of Missouri lemming program. The four are all jolly friendly men who are highly coöperative, helpful, and who mind their own business. As they work together, sweeping the floor or refinishing boats they talk in their native language, frequently apparently telling jokes. In general, the eskimo here has been in constant contact with whites for many years, a few hardy ones from the states having gone native. A notable example is Charles Brower who lived in Barrow Village for nearly 50 years. His book, 40 years below zero, is available here but I have not read it yet. Brower died in 1945 and leaves a number of descendents. The civilizing process is here to stay as best it can, but

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 the fact remains that the population is essentially dependent upon the creatures of the sea and air for their support. For example the Navy Base here is scheduled to reduce or terminate its operations shortly and no doubt will throw the economy back toward its previous basis. Trapping of fur animals is a small industry - foxes, the arctic and an occasional red, a few polar bears each year, and when I was in the village the other day it was reported a party had just secured a wolf hunted from an airplane. But it is the whales and seals, and the ducks - masses of migrating eiders - that supply the main food. The eskimo stores food in permafrost lockers, merely an excavation in the frozen ground. One near the village has a wooden frame top about 4' square and the hole some 6' or 8' square goes down perhaps 10'; then there is a cavity off this shaft that leads back probably not very far. The shaft and side tunnel were nearly filled by chunks of whale recently thrown in

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 and nicely frozen. The ground here thaws only a foot or so. This condition occurs over much of Alaska, the permafrost deeper in the warmer regions, but nonetheless present even in the cultivated areas. The spring and winter whale season is just over now. This was a good year for 17 were secured by the villagers. None last year and only 2 or 3 the year before. Thus everyone has had his fill of muktuk. This I understand is generally the blubber, but perhaps only that near the skin for the flippers and flukes provide the greatest delicacy in this field, and from the whole whale. The bow-head is the species taken, a large-headed mammal which was at one time a most valuable catch for its supply of baleen. With less demand for corset stays and the manufacture of cheap substitutes for genuine baleen stays the baleen business has gone on the rocks, or up here one might say the ice, and the natives must be content to leave it to float away when the ice breaks up.

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 Some baleen is used, however, in the household as binding material. I'll have to find out more about this. At one time the eskimos were provided with reindeer from Asia to supplement their economy - shipped by boat and train across the Atlantic and ~~also~~ States, and also driven on the ice across the Bering Straits I understand - but these domesticated herds have largely or totally escaped. After all the eskimo is essentially a hunter and who wants to be miles from the sea ice when the whales are spouting out in the lead? The reindeer (Rangifer arctica is said to interbreed with caribou (Rangifer caribou) so the population may be mixed in some of the coastal areas of Alaska. Native caribou seldom come to the sea but are perhaps a hundred miles inland. There are many in the regions south of the Brooks range, even in the vicinity of Fairbanks. They were migrating and calving 85 miles out on the Steese Highway from Fairbanks last week when I went through.

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 The eskimo seasonally has access to the caribou and makes much use of the hide and meat. Many of the natives are aware of the approach of civilization and favor this much. What the future of the about 1500 Barrow people is, seems to be along the lines of learning the stateside and interior peoples ways. Many, I don't know how many, have gone south to do construction work in Fairbanks. They are good craftsmen and do well at carpentering. How many will be able to leave their dependence on the sea and subsist as tradesmen is a question. Whether their society will be able to stand under those conditions or whether it will crumble to assimilation I do not know. Undoubtedly the old culture is gone now forever. The "wild" eskimo of a couple of hundred years ago did not have many permanently established settlements, but was a nomadic hunter. Even now in summer they spread out along the coast to hunt ducks and the village population is thus reduced. Aneral first contact

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 hurdles are passed. The population is now immune, naturally or medically, from such scourges as small pox and measles. Details of these relationships I have not read. Bailey in his "Birds of Alaska" found about 400 persons in Barrow. There are now said to be from 900 to 1500, depending on season and census. To investigate the way of life of the eskimo I went out on the ice pack last evening between 8 and 11. It was the first good clear day since my arrival. The ice for about a mile or so out from shore is fairly smooth, with occasional small blocks of old ice frozen up in it. Then there is the first pressure ridge, an area of broken ice slabs tossed up together in a ridge roughly parralleling the shore and 5' to about 20' tall, just heaps and heaps of ice cakes. There is then rough and smooth ice with partial ridges and undisturbed areas for the next 1/4 mile, a second more or less continuously defined ridge, and finally smooth ice, with some old cracks in it, for

Cabeno Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 the next 1/4 mile to the rippling and lapping sub-freezing salty Arctic Sea. The whole situation is a wonderland for a visitor. Beyond the ice edge is the open water or lead as it is known. Some miles beyond with occasional bergs floating between and with many captive bergs within is the endless Arctic icepack. Off shore winds in the winter when the ice is generally only a foot or so thick tend to force the whole ice mass toward shore. There is considerable buckling of the crust and the grinding ice grounds, forming these pressure ridges and masses, usually offshore. One year it is said the ice stacked up on the beach, endangering some of the base buildings. The ice thus forced toward shore leaves the open water beyond and this is where the hunting takes place for the whales occupy this area. Why it doesn't freeze over again I haven't found out. The snows settle down over this and drift over all the ice even where

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Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska
it is relatively flat, and fills in many of the spaces and cracks between the broken ice. The whole thing freezes up fast, about 40" of ice so it is all perfectly safe to walk over. True one sometimes slips deep in the soft snow, up to the knees, when crossing the pressure ridges but that is not bad, besides we were following a trail made by other adventurers since the light snow early this week. The few warm days have caused icicles to form here and there off the tilted blocks. The sunlight causes "blue ice", the softest shades imaginable, grading to white. Thus some really spectacular little grottos are formed. None that I inspected were occupied by polar bears. They are out with the seals this time of year. One eskimo shot a bear a few miles up the coast, about $200 worth of hide. Out at the ice edge the remains of a huge whale was left, the head about 10' long with the baleen fronds waving like a palm tree in the light wind. There were

Jonich
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Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 huge section of backbone, some scattered ribs, and the intestines lying about. Back a few yards an eskimo had a temporary camping place, for a pair of buckle overshoes was drying and 5 or 6 pieces of shoe-box size muktuk were stacked against an ice cake, the initials C.M. carved in the hide of one. Whale skin looks just about like rubber-cord conveyor belt material, being about 3/4" thick. With a pocket knife we sliced off a little of the stuff for a sample, taking the blubber just beneath the skin. The blocks looked something like huge pieces of pink cake with licorice (black anyway) frosting. So we tried the skin deep muktuk and found it good - if you like fatty tissue with a clear oil seeping out when you squeeze. That is the whales secret. It was probably about 18° or 20° out there and the oil still flowed about as readily as olive oil in the kitchen. The taste is a little on the fishy side and definitely that of plain whale oil, but as I say palatable and readily digestible.

Jomich
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Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 Not wishing to deprive the eskimo of his larder we did not get far beyond the sampling stage. The slight waves lapped at the edge of the ice which was about a foot higher than the water. An oomiak (skin boat) chugged along some distance out, with its modern touch of outboard motor, and the lowering sun played on the ice mass. There are several tented eskimos along the lead. They stay out there, moving back some when swells come up and heave the ice up and down, threatening to break floes from it. At times the eskimos become so interested in their hunting they are literally carried away by unexpected winds and currents, but they are generally good weather prophets. The ice will be safe for some time yet and even then the eskimos will be out on it until it finally breaks up. It is their life. To see the ice pack first hand on a brightly lit sunlight night is something everyone should experience at first hand, once. It was near 11 when I got back to the base and

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 the sun was getting low, about as low as it would for the night, far from setting. But the weather changes and when I awoke at 4:30 there was a fog close on the ground. No doubt the oomiah had been brought in but many a hunter was probably sitting it out on the ice so he could proceed with his occupation. I have little data on their schedule in the light period. It is said to be socially incorrect to call on the eskimo in his home in the morning because he may be sleeping. Yesterday afternoon before the ice trip I went by weasel the about 6 miles up to Old Point Barrow. That is the long point that projects beyond us, with Elson Lagoon behind it. The typical beach condition of smoothly water-worn gravel, size say 1/8" to 1/2" but an awful lot about uniform 1/4" across extends everywhere here along the water. It absorbs heat and melts off quicker than most places, thus exposing considerable ground. The spit is only about 100' wide at one place and water in ages past has washed

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 over the area of the narrow spit, leaving the washed gravel well above water. At old Point Barrow there is a gradually rising promontory of several acres; the peninsula is quite wide here as a map will show. The level here is about 10' above the sea level and is gradually being eaten away by the sea from the east, so we have a 10' bank of old gravel deposit with a foot or ~~so~~ so of topsoil on it, gradually toppling into the sea on the narrow beach below. It was here that the old Barrow Village lay, a modest assemblage of igloos of sod and whale bone, partly excavated into the earth. There were perhaps 10 houses, and no one knows how many more have gradually been washed away, for the cliff now has one old home on its edge. Nearby is ~~an a~~ a house that is still functional. The fairly rectangular mound is about 4' high and 20' square outside, with sloping walls or roof, one can't distinguish, and an entrance at one end near the top, 2' by 4', outlined in whale bones.

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Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 The inside is partly full of ice and snow but the supporting whale bones are there, forming a roughly rectangular cavity about 4' wide and 6' long, with sloping walls. It might have been a little bigger and deeper, I didn't take a long look this trip. In the patches of bare gravel and tundra plants, for there is some soil on the high ground, it is possible to see artifacts. I saw rusty nails, bits of glass, and remnants of an old stove. But on closer inspection at another place I found a sawed piece of caribou antler which Pete Sovalik says is ~~an~~ ice scraper which not completed, this only a few years old. Then I found the prize, a handle for an oloo (knife or scraper) nicely fashioned of whale bone. It is somewhat weathered and cracked but intact. There are series of holes drilled for braiding in baleen or rawhide for decoration and to improve the grip. Primitive ones had stone blades and later ones steel. Pete says he has never seen such a carefully made one in use

Jewich
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Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 22 and several persons around the lab. have remarked about it. I think I'll have to move the bunting studies to the Old City so I can look around at leisure. Harvardmen are interested in this culture and will be here this summer. The snow bunting has a definite relationship to the eskimo and lives close about his dwellings, for it nests in buildings or their crevices. Thus Old Point Barrow still supports a small number of buntings, though the effect of the eskimo's wastes on the soil is diminished. The fertilizing effects of them produces better grasses and thus more abundant bunting food. One last year nested in an old whale skull that lay on the ground. This bird does not live on the open tundra. My intention was not to write a book, particularly after only a week in Eskimoland. Perhaps in a few more weeks I shall be able to boil things down to a less lengthy discourse, with an increase of actual fact thrown in. It is indeed a surprise that a few observations should extend so far.

Eskimo Notes

Point Barrow, Alaska

May 23 This morning Pete Sovalik reminded me that this is the beer day, that is, the day the store issues the weekly 12-can ration to the employees here. The implication was that if I didn't want the ration Pete would gladly take it off my hands. The eskimos are of course not allowed to buy beer and I find the restrictions concerning procuring any kind of alcoholic beverages for them are similar to those pertaining to the Indians. I told him I would go to jail and he said he wouldn't want that and wouldn't insist on making a deal. There is a lot of shrewdness hidden behind that round face and broad smile. He just went on sweeping the ~~rou~~ lab. and departed with his usual whistling. The boys here tell me he is quite an old tomcat, whatever that indicates. He's about 45 and the biggest eskimo I have seen, about 5'10' and weighing some 200 lbs. I see from the A.R.C. newsletter that Ronald Coates is 18 and shot his first polar bear this April. Oliver's last name is Angashuk, not James.

May 25 Reading on in the newsletter I see that

Eskimo Notes

May 25 Point Barrow, Alaska - there is a case of friendly competition between it and these scribblings. The April whaling activities and other events are nicely covered.

May 27 This morning just after arriving at work Oliver was industriously scrubbing his teeth with Iparna. I didn't bother him for any explanation. On May 20 Gen. James A. Van Fleet of Auburndale, Florida, visited the lab. He is a big relaxed sort of a fellow, informal and genteel. I just noticed that he signed the register immediately below my signature.

May 30 I have just sharpened my pen and hope that it will improve my notes somewhat. Yesterday was a big event for the villagers, and for the tourists alike for a moderate sized whale, 27' long, was taken out in the lead. Several parties from the base were out there, including myself, taking color shots by the yard. The old whaling art has been modified for many years by the introduction of the outboard motor for the skin oomiaks, and by the charged harpoon, or harpoon gun. The whale

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May 30 Point Barrow, Alaska

was killed early, and brought up on the ice by midmorning with the aid of a large manually operated block and tackle. This is anchored to the ice by chopping a proper notch or bridge in it. The rope broke again, as has happened earlier in the season. All this was related to me by other observers for Frank Pitelka and I did not arrive until about 1:30 p.m. when the carcass was reduced to slabs of blubber, steaks, and assorted bones. The head remained and this was being reduced by the widows and elderly people of the village who are allowed to clean the skeleton. The system seems to be that the men all work on the carcass and shares go to the crews, and to all the hunting families according to some long standing tradition. Thus it was that all the men were sitting back among the dozen or so beached oomiaks, smoking or talking, while the women slashed away at the head, filling gunny sacks with the flesh. There was one elderly gent among them and he dragged off quite a large hunk

Eskimo Notes

May 30 of the flesh, as did several of the women also. There were several of the younger villagers about who were rather dressed up in fur parkas and seemed to be as much the sight-seers as we statesiders were, for several carried and used their cameras. The men who work at the base share in the whale through others of their family. After an hour or so the men began to stir, and to count out and drag away the 8" thick slabs of blubber, preparing to transport it to the village. We left at this time. To return to the beginning, we parked the weasel at the U.S. weather Bureau Station, for Gene Harder to keep an eye on, and walked down through the backyards of the villagers to the beach. I might describe the village a little. The houses are all frame structures, with the general aspect of a rugged coast fishing village all about. The houses are spread out quite a bit, some close to others and a few ways that set as streets, generally faced by front doors, but some by back doors. But to depart from the romantic view the town

Eskimo Notes

May 30 is just like many parts of Egyptian towns, with mud and slush instead of sand and dust, and cold instead of heat. There is not a sprig of vegetation, the town is located on a rolling prominence that is about 20' to 30' above the sea. It shows brown now with the snow nearly all gone there. The filth of generations previous and present is beginning to activate for the summer season and the odors are already emanating from the mud, even as the slush water drains off. Everything goes out the door, just about as far as a husky native can throw it, usually not so far – bones, skulls, caribou antlers, boxes, rags, papers, garbage and so on. I picked up a beaten walrus skull in Alfred Hopson's yard, which slopes gently away at the back toward a little drainage way. The tushs are in good shape and fairly large. There were lots of children out playing for it was a fair sunny day. Four small girls were engaged in a vigorous teeter-totter game. They had a long plank over a stone or box on a hillside and 2 kids stood at each end.

Eskimo Notes

May 30 Point Barrow, Alaska - The teetering started by the youngsters adjusting to proper places near the ends of the board and using their legs to maintain balance. After the pace increased it tended to throw the kids up in the air, so up they went, coming down on the board and in turn throwing the other pair. This went on until somebody or another fell off, only to scramble back on and start the fun again. I hope the pictures of it turn out. Us Stateside kids are pretty tame. There were numerous boys about and nearly everyone had a slingshot in hand or in his hind pocket. Others had bows and arrows and the chief sport was stalking and shooting longspurs, which now are flocking about the village until the snow breaks more generally on the open tundra where they nest. Frank and I went down on the ice onto a trail out to the whale. Immediately off the beach were an acre or so of oil drums, each filled with refuse and garbage in general. The idea being that when the ice breaks it will carry away the season's accumulation of trash. Empty drums are a

Eskimo Notes

May 30 Point Barrow Alaska - time a dozen for the base has acres and acres and stacks and stacks of them. I guess they are not worth hauling back to Seattle for refills - hence the handy one trip disposable garbage cans. I wondered at first who would bother to haul out refuse but I suppose the hospital, school, church, weather station, and possibly a few other people do. The town looks more like garbage was hauled in rather than out, but we in fact did see a venerable old Cat. with tracks sagging unbelievably low, nearly a foot, sledding out a day's, week's, or months accumulation of a dozen or so cans to dump with the others on the ice. Not far out the snow was clean and smooth on the ice and we could see the blue and orange striped flag on the first pressure ridge, locating the whale. We walked out, with a dog team passing us and another meeting us. The outgoing contained a couple of old women proceeding to the carcass, with a boy driver, and a younger woman along. The trail led through a pass

Eskimo Notes

May 30 Point Barrow, Alaska - in the 20' ice ridge, and the whole activity ~~was~~ was another couple of hundred yards off. The scene was quite colorful on the snow-covered ice, with the deep blue of the Arctic Sea and unusually clear sky for a back drop. Distant bergs floated in the subfreezing brine and occasional swarms of eider ducks were passing up the coast, sometimes close in and even over the ice. A lone goose passed over the crowd after the main part of the work was done and the eskimos sitting about sent up an unbelievably natural sounding chorus of honking. Others made guns ready and 2 or 3 shots were fired to speed the goose northward. An ancient custom associated with the collection of witch doctorish beliefs among the eskimos was said to be to offer the whale a drink of water as soon as it was on the ice so its spirit would go back to the other whales informing them it was being well cared for on land, thus assuring a good season the next year as

Eskimo Notes

May 30 Point Barrow, Alaska - the surviving whales would have no reason to avoid that stretch of the sea. Next month is the nellagatuk festival, or whale feast, a kind of eskimo Thanksgiving. Everyone from the base is invited and it is said to be quite a spectacle - with all the whale delicacies one can eat, and an exhibition of native dancing. We took the weasel off through the village and out into the trackless wastes beyond - well, about 5 miles, and not outride the frequently traveled routes to inland explorations. The land now is like a desert, with powdery snow drifting like sand to fill our footprints in less than an hour on a windy day. About a mile from the village were 3 polar bear skins ~~were~~ stretched almost life-like, but skin side out, over a drying rack. It's wonderful fur; I can see how one would bring $200 or so.

June 1 I have just begun reading Charlie Brower's 50 years Below Zero. It is readily possible in the first few pages to see how he got ahead of everyone up here by getting down on paper a good many of the topics everyone

Eskimo Notes

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska

talks about or has claimed to have encountered first hand. I think that by merely reading the book a fast talker could become quite an authority on the subject of the Arctic Slope. Brower arrived here in 1887 and holds first claim on having lived with many of the groups of eskimos. Thus most of the things he ran into were without precedent in other peoples experience - certainly not in that of people he had met. The talk here says the book glosses over a lot of things, and doesn't even mention the thriving bootleg business that Charlie ran for some time. I guess there's a good deal of room here for ~~an~~ a biographer. There is a lot of source material and plenty of Brower's contemporaries still in the village. However, the task isn't quite along my line of endeavor. I just happened to think that in comparing the middle east to the arctic I failed to mention one of the greatest contrasts — the total absence of flies. The odors of the village incidently, haven't changed in centuries for where the old igloos are washing into the sea the same smell is strong in the cross section of an ancient rubbish heap. Part of this I discover is a characteristic of the tundra itself, for where it has thawed

Eskimo Notes

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
there is an unmistakable component of the village aroma, miles from any past or present settlement.

June 7 I have been reading an interesting article on the mammals, people, and the country in the Anaktuvik Pass region. This pass is the main migration route of the caribou through the Brooks range, and is at an elevation of only about 2000' in this mountain chain that is generally 6 to 8 thousand feet high. The main river of the pass drops only 200 feet in 15 miles; a similar river runs out the other way into the Yukon drainage. Incidently when I came to Barrow we took the special route through this pass because of brass on the plane. Took pictures too, which were much more satisfactory down in the canyon than any view from above. The article appears in <u>Arctic</u> magazine for December, 1951. What I was going to relate was the story of a primitive method of taking wolves that the <u>Inland People</u>, as they are known, used before firearms were introduced. Pete Sovalik told me the same story. The eskimos would take a piece of baleen several inches long, sharpen the ends, and twist or roll it up in a ball of meat. This was bound and allowed to freeze.

Eskimo Notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
Several of these meat balls would be left out, as Pete says, in the caribou stomachs, and the scavenging wolves would find and gulp down the frozen pieces of meat which, incidently, were liberally oiled with seal oil to slide down with more facility. When the meat balls thawed the baleen would spring back to its normal shape and pierce the wolf's stomach. The only problem of the eskimo was then to trail and find the dead wolf. That was the simple life, but its all changed now. I note in the village that parka ruffs are often made of wolverine fur. Wolf and eskimo dog are also used. Ours loaned by the Navy seem to be of dog fur - I don't know where they got the large supply to furbish all the parkas in the service, but it has been done. Several wolverines have been shot this year on the Arctic slope, one only 7 miles from Barrow. Usually the wolverines stay far inland. But this year its different. It is the peak year for lemmings. This has brought foxes from inland because they feed on lemmings when they are numerous, and wolverines eat foxes, or most anything. It's a sort of long-legged furry

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Eskimo notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska

badger about the size of a dog. So much for the wolverine. Yes, the snow has been receding since June 1 and the lemmings are gradually being exposed. They have been so numerous and active under the snow that virtually the whole cover has been undermined by their tunnels and digging to reach the plants they feed on. The vegetation has been literally mown by the lemmings, for they eat the basal parts of the stems, which remain green all winter. The forage now is about exhausted and where the snow is off the grass lays over the ground like well-trodden chaff. The lemmings have become rather restless about the situation and many have left home. The past 2 or 3 days it has been possible to see one or two or three running about the gravel streets of the base, going somewhere, but nowhere in particular. We do not anticipate a great march as is reputed to occur in Scandinavia. Charlie Brower's story about a 10 mile front of lemmings that ~~are to year~~ took four days to pass through Barrow is received with considerable skepticism by the villagers I have talked with. He also states that they went out on the ice and into the sea beyond

Eskimo Notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska

so that his boats had to push through their accumulated bodies for several miles before reaching open water. The lemming cycle runs in about a 3 to 4 year cycle. That is there is a buildup of the population for 2 or 3 years, so that in the final winter they increase tremendously and eat themselves out of house and home. Then comes the big die off, aided by the various predators, the weather, and lack of food. The few that survive exist until the food ~~of~~ supply is replenished in a season or two, and then once more there is a flurry of reproduction until the food supply is again outrun. There is a nice adjustment by the climate and plants to this situation, for the plants are perennials with their roots set solidly in ground that is frozen through the winter and unavailable to the rodents that might attempt to dig them. With the reserve of ready roots the grasses are able in a season to recover and provide a bountiful forage for the lemmings. The mice, however, take a little longer to make a show because really very few are said to survive the trial that is at this moment upon the population. The next few days and weeks should be of great interest in this regard.

Eskimo Notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska

This morning lemmings were noticeably more numerous about the base, with 4 or 5, or 6 or 8 in sight as one crossed from one building to another, looking down a long street. Out on the tundra the mice were running about everywhere, not massed in great numbers, but as one walked or drove the weasel there were always 2 or 3 scrambling out of the way, to duck under the snow or run madly in search of cover. The flattened grass offered little or none and there are exceedingly few burrows. New ones cannot be dug in the frozen soil at this season. Thus the lemmings are being left naked as the snow recedes. Straying of the mice continued strongly through the day. In the afternoon our party drove up the gravel spit about 6 miles to the point. Here the lemmings have not been abundant but somewhat numerous. This is the only place where we have found the vegetation little or hardly used and lemmings were moved into make use of this unexploited food supply. At some small patches only 10' wide and 30' long the mice were thick, for these small areas had no mice at all through winter. The denser grass also provided enough cover, almost sufficient to hide the round, huddled form

Eskimo Notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska

of a frightened lemming. In some places there were 5 or 6 to a square yard, others scrambled about when the grass was trod upon and care had to be exercised to avoid stepping upon the little fellows. These scraps of grass cover offered the heaviest concentration of lemmings that we found, sometimes 40 or 50 on a little area like that described. And they were all busy eating. From a distance the lemmings were like so many round balls scattered about, often outlined by the receding, irregular cover of snow adjacent to which they fed. Many lemmings wandered on the open gravelly stretches, and even individual clumps of grass were found by them. Looking out over the sea ice lemmings could be seen bobbing up and down in their hurried flowing manner, over the irregular surface. They were well scattered out, but 2 or 3 could often be seen at once, and as far out as one could see with the field glasses, a mile or more. They went in any direction, deviating rather frequently from a set course. Thus the big <u>migration</u> is on and some of the lemmings have probably reached the water by this time, several miles out from the gravel spit. At the point we counted

Eskimo Notes

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
10 snowy owls, perched on the ground, on the ruins, or on other occasional suitable perches. They were generally near the beach as if having reached the end of the land and hesitant about going beyond. Later we saw two out on the ice some distance. All sat about as if waiting for their recent lemming dinners to digest so that more could be eaten. They regurgitate balls of fur and bones.

June 8 The lemming activity is receding today, with fewer about the base. There are just as many out on the tundra but those along the spit have virtually disappeared from the isolated patches where there is no cover – the food is gone. Where there was more snow and more grass the lemmings are still busily eating. But the population is weaker. At several places weak mice are huddled in a round ball to stave off the cold that comes from exposure and little food, but the end for many is inevitable. Tonight at 11:15 I could see none out over the ice. These, in general that were active yesterday have not come back. In the weak rays of the lowering sun I was able to get several close-up pictures of mice along the beach. Some were surprisingly undisturbed, often too busy

Eskimo Notes

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska

eating to bother. Others scuttled about and still others put up a defense by rearing back, squealing, and getting the sharp teeth ready. The sun now gets down to what one would consider about an hour before setting in the states, decidedly less bright and less warm than in the day. We have been having ice these past two clear mornings with 8 a.m. temperature about 30° and maximum for the day about 40°. It's nice out unless the wind is strong and it hasn't been.

June 11 The word has been out for several days that tonight would be the first in a series of whale celebration at the village. The village council issued a formal invitation to the comp here so the C.O. announced that 2 LVT's and several weasels would be dispatched at various hours to take all interested personnel. I went along at 7:30 in one of the laboratory vehicles. When we arrived the blanket tossing sport which is the preliminary event of all nelakstook parties, was well underway. The bulk of the village had turned out for the affair which was held down on the gravelly beach with a back-

Eskimo notes

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

drop of the rugged ocean ice. In winter the social events are held indoors, in the armory, for Barrow Village has its own National Guard unit and Quonset to house it. But this is summer now and everyone turns out in the mild weather — a moderate wind, foggy overcast, and the thermometer reading 34°. A windbreak about 100 feet long and 8 feet high, of a variety of shapes and qualities of tarpaulins, had been set up across the beach to protect against the easterly blow. Its frame was of driftwood and rough lumber, with four tall poles set in the gravel. Each of these had an old navy signal flag atop it, lending a decorative touch to the atmosphere. The older folks sat along the windbreak with their picnic meal, which apparently had just about been completed when we arrived. About everyone else gathered around the blanket tossing setup and children ran about everywhere. The <u>blanket</u> was made of tanned seal skin, several hides sewed together to make a square about 10 feet on a side. The edge was loosely laced ~~edged~~ with rope so that everyone had a hand-hold. At each corner a rope ran out over

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June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

an X brace to hold it some 6' above the ground and continued through a block and tackle and to an anchor buried in the gravel. By tightening the ropes the blanket was supported about 4' above ground. The crowd around the edge then were the powering force that flipped the blanket up and down, the idea being for the person on the blanket to maintain an upright position and to land as close as possible to the middle at each toss. A fellow would climb up, gently balancing himself on the springy hide; then at a gentle up and down "One - two - three" to get the tossers in unison, down they pushed sharply and then up, springing the fellow into the air. When he was up the tossers brought the blanket down quickly with a snap, and then up again to catch him when he came down, and to be prepared for the next toss which came immediately. Some of the nimbler eskimos were very good. Balancing action consisted of arm swinging, singly or both together, and particularly a kind of bicycle peddling motion. The best per-

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June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

formers were good for 5 or 6 tosses before falling. There were some remarkable tumbles - being thrown off the blanket or bouncing from it, but nobody was hurt because usually the participant was caught in some fashion by the crowd and because the toss was not so high unless the fellow was in balance. The girls tried it too and a few were also pretty good, going a full 10' in the air as the men did. The whole affair was a good-natured game. When a person did well he was allowed 2 or 3 falls before his turn was up. There were a few comedy acts, as when a rather heavy woman got on the blanket - her knees merely buckled and she fell flat each time on the first throw - but she wouldn't give up. Some of the fellows from the base and the white folks of the village jumped too but none were any good. After a couple of hours things began to drag and the blanket tore so it was dismantled. There was then a kind of recess from 9:30 to 11 while an awning of canvas was rigged up for the orchestra, against the windbreak. Many of the folks went home to take their supper equipment and there

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June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

a general inactivity. We went up to the coffee shop on invitation of Pete Sovalik, and that really saved the night for it was pretty cold just standing around. The place was neat enough, a large room adjacent to the theatre with 3 chrome dinette tables, a counter with a row of stools, and a Coleman stove in the center. There was no decoration on the walls, the Coke supply for the rest of the season until a supply ship comes in in July, was stacked along one wall. There were various eskimos about and the atmosphere was that of any soda fountain. Coffee at 15¢ a cup was good. The bunch of us loafed awhile and then wandered back to the beach. The <u>Barrow Village Drums</u> had by then taken their positions in a row, sitting on a board with feet out front, at the front of the awning. Behind were 2 rows of women, with kids nestled in among them. The 8 drummers each were conditioning their instruments. The drum is made of seal stomach stretched over a half inch deep hoop that is about 18" in diameter. The drummer holds the drum fan-like by a 6" long handle in the left hand and strikes it with a ~~flo~~ thin round stick

Eskimo Notes

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

that is about 2' long and a little thicker than a pencil. The stick strikes flat across the underside of the drum with the end hitting the upper edge of the hoop. Thus it is the flexibility of the stick that causes it to strike the drumhead from underneath, near the middle. There are two sounds, a mere tapping of the edges of the hoop as a kind of warm-up and the faint booming of the stick as it strikes the drumhead when the music is really going. The whole row moves in unison so that the drums, which are swung a foot or so to meet the stick all move together like coördinated fans. A kind of chanting singing accompanies the drum beating and its quite a rythm, but a simple one, everyone doing the same thing at the same time. There are evidently words to it for everyone stops at the same time. One of the men was leader and the others, and women in the back, joined in to get the band going. This kept up for awhile, but the drummers seemed rather apathetic, if not plain cold. Nobody wanted to dance. The <u>floor</u> was the sealskin blanket, spread out in front of the musicians. We were all cold so returned for more

Eskimo Notes

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

coffee. Then we wandered into the native store as it is called, similar to the other I saw, but more of a trading post. There was a set of walrus tusks nearly 2' long, and upstairs they had quite a store of furs, many from inland as the rabbits and skunks indicated. Arctic fox skins are $15 each, nicely tanned. This animal has a very nice pure white pelt. There is sometimes some village handicraft for sale, but none at that particular time. It was 11 p.m. and village activity was bustling. Kids were running about everywhere. Down on the beach they wrestled and scrapped and played games. Several girls were juggling stones, 2 in one hand while walking along. It was quite a game. Thus it appears that most ~~so~~ eskimo sport has to do with vertical movement — let us consider blanket tossing, the jumping teeter board, stone juggling, and believe it or not, a lot of the kids were just jumping up and down as if quite a lot depended upon it. Earlier in the evening several kids were jumping rope with a big rope from the blanket toss apparatus. A few reluctant dancers began. It is of course individual participation, what little we saw

Eskimo Notes

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

was groups of 2 to 4 men, or women, separately. They did a kind of rythm with the hands and mainly stamped the right foot in time with the music. But things didn't develop into much, lots of standing around. After all it was the first session of the season. There was plenty of color in the crowd and some rather gay parkas were displayed, in the nicest kinds of furs. As a matter of fact some seemed like factory made jobs and might well have been. There is a lot of loose money around - I hear that watermelons and things like that sell very well, brought in by airfreight at some horrible price. The ladies tend to wear a bright colored cloth outer garment over their fur dress-length parka. There was much wolverine skin parka trim as it is a choice item for this purpose, and one of the warmest. There was all kinds of footwear, from Sears rubber boots and G.I. shoes to every style of native-made mukluk. The mukluks primarily are sealskin boots, the original snowboot, lined with warm fur, like caribou for example. They are rather loose fitting with cross bindings to tighten them over the foot and

Eskimo notes

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska

around the ankle. The current fashion is for the boots to be of brown sealskin with white bindings that are about an inch wide. Some of the all-winter men here at the base have adopted use of mukluks, with fairly favorable results. Our shoepacks, rubber lower part and leather upper, I think are just as practical. Some of the eskimos wear these or buckle overshoes. The kids wear the oddest assortment of footgear, sometimes ill-fitting and worn. Once in a while a pair of hip rubber boots is seen. When it got to be 11:30 and we were about frozen up in our tracks we decided to go on home. The temperature was creeping toward 30°. It proved to be almost too cold for the natives too for the party broke up about 12:30 without really livening up at all.

June 18 There was a second party on the 15th which I did not attend. The sky was overcast but it was not quite so cold. Again, the reports said, even the eskimos could not quite bring themselves to full activity, although the blanket tossing went on for quite awhile. This evening was nearly clear and by Arctic standards, mild. Quite a gang from the base went

Eskimo Notes

June 18 Point Barrow, Alaska

down to the village after dinner. The blanket toss apparatus was rigged up on the village square, an open space that seemed to occur by chance, and the fun had been going on since 1 p.m. Since the thaw the navy base had been working in the village, grading and hauling in beach gravel, so much mud had been eliminated. Blanket tossing continued until nearly midnight and the whole village turned out to watch or participate. The old folks, as usual, sat in rows against the windbreak. The others assisted or took part in the game, or viculated about, or just stood around. Cameras were everywhere, among eskimos, white villagers and the guests alike. The super ultimate among the natives was one fellow with 3 cameras and assorted paraphenalia slung over his shoulders. Of course ~~had~~ he didn't hold a candle to one of our boys from the cook staff who carried about 25 lbs. of gear that must have cost at least $500. I felt a little ill at ease with the compact little Leica that can be operated in one hand and which slips readily into a shirt pocket. Several people climbed onto neighboring houses for a little better view, or perhaps because they

Eskimo Notes

June 18 Point Barrow, Alaska

couldn't stand the crowd. A new feature of this night's program surrounded an inflated seal skin which was brought forth. At each end was a 3' rope and the idea was for the participant to hold the skin on his back until in midair, then to swing it under his feet and back up again before he hit the blanket — like jumping rope. There was considerable stumbling and falling on account of the sealskin but one or two managed to jump the thing twice while in midair. The usual few from the base tried the blanket with no more than ridiculous results. I poked around in back of the crowd and noted a good reason for this. Among the kids about 2 years to 8 were several jumping teeter board games going on, with some boards only 3' or 4' long set across a 4 X 4. One has to start young in this jumping business. About 10:30 we thought the blanket tossing was over but instead of taking it down the leaders were merely adjusting it. The final word in parkas appeared when a young matron wore one that was a black and gold apparently brocaded item. The child was tucked in on her back and a leather outside belt served to form the constriction that would keep the youngster

Eskimo Notes

June 18 Point Barrow, Alaska

from falling through. There is no separate pouch for the youngster, apparently, but it does have a ruff of its own. The arrangement seems to be such that the child can be nursed without removing to the outside cold air. I should judge that it is inside its own parka, accounting for the separate ruff. Several in fact all I saw of the white youth flock with the Eskimos in similar costume, which is only natural. They seemed relaxed, happy, and at home with their playmates. After all there is nothing like being practical. With the blanket still in constant action at 11:30 we left, although many of the base personnel stayed. It had clouded up when fog drifted from off the ocean. The party went on until after 2, with the dancing starting past 12. Everyone agreed that it was indeed a successful whale feast. The dancing I was told, was done somewhat along the lines of programmed activity, with each whale crew leader taking part in turn. These old traditions seem to be dying out in the younger generations, with dilution of the native stock, and with the creeping in of north temperate civilization. Whether whale blubber can be successfully mixed with Coca Cola at one meal is still to be seen.

Eskimo Notes

June 25 Point Barrow, Alaska

The snow is now gone from the land except for remnants of icy drifts against the low ridges. Small lakes are ice-free and the ground is thawed as deep as several inches, dependent upon the cover. The thaw-water has drained off and the puddles remain, with the ponds and lakes clearly defined. The marsh ground is soggy and the upland well drained. A little green shows here and there. On the large lakes there is marginal thaw as has been taking place irregularly along the beach. The ocean ice looks dirty and thaw pools abound upon it. Nonetheless the eskimos still use it as a sled road. This is a rather critical season for travel - too much ice for boats and no snow for sleds. The wind has been blowing hard from the west all day, perhaps 30 to 35 miles an hour, and this has shown up weakness of ice pack. The whole mass has moved shoreward, filling up the thawed places, and more, shoving itself up on the beach in great blocks cracked from the main body. Some of these are 60' from the water line, plowed over the beach gravel. There was considerable shift

Eskimo Notes

June 25 Point Barrow, Alaska

of the pressure ridge and everywhere the pack buckled, throwing up blocks and mounds on the main ice surface. This constitutes a first step in the great breakup. At the present time the open water is about one mile off the village and 4 miles off the base, and several miles wide. What we need now is a good east wind to shove the ice away from the land. The water is gradually warming and the melt will be rapid. In some years the ice pack, the main polar cap, recedes as far as 200 to 300 miles from Barrow. In other years it may move in and out all summer, rather broken up and not completely impassable to the ships that ply the waters in summer.

July 10 The Harvard archeologists have arrived, Dr. W. K. Carter, his wife, and two students. They have been busy excavating at the middens which are slowly crumbling into the sea at the end of Point Barrow. They mark out areas a meter square and dig down to permafrost, let it thaw, and dig on some more until the original beach gravel is reached. This is usually only a foot or two below the surface. They recover an amazing amount of artifacts, mainly broken bone items,

Eskimo notes

July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

but there is quite an admixture of metal items, for the diggings are all post-contact. It is conjectured that half a mile or more of the point has washed into the ocean in the past hundreds of years, destroying the accumulated trash heaps of the early Eskimos, for they as whale hunters always had their village close to the shore. The old village of Nuvuk at the point was occupied as late as 1930 or so. Ruins of a sod hut remain, besides the older dwellings and meat storage lockers dug into the ground. There were apparently wooden houses there in the last stages of the use of the site but these have since been dismantled or burned. At the beginning of the spit which runs out as Point Barrow, enclosing Elson Lagoon the Eskimos have set up their summer duck camp. Return migration of male and non-breeding eiders is already in progress and hunting is fairly good. The tent village is strategically located, for the ducks cross the spit there, having followed the shore of the lagoon, and continue along the ocean in their south-westward movement. So it is here, in addition to Barrow Village, that the modern middens are being laid

Eskimo Notes

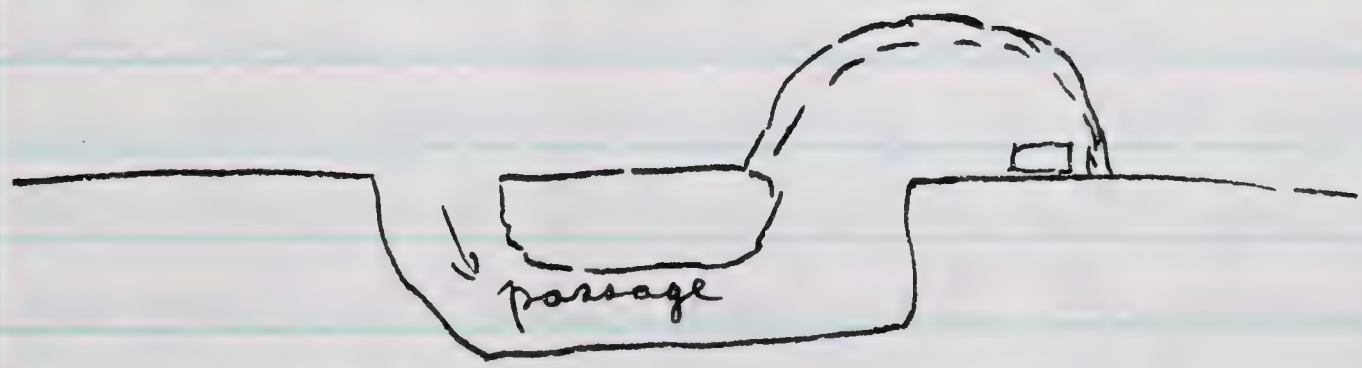
July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

down. Here, too, the archeologists are busy for Berrnik is indeed an ancient camping and village site. The Harvard men were explaining the ecology of the primitive ~~man~~ people of the Arctic – how they have adapted themselves to life under such marginal conditions as are found here. The Eskimo has evolved as a race with a well-developed mechanical aptitude, and there are stories akin to the Thomas Edison and his father's watch epic. Recently one of the natives here was said to have found a discarded outboard motor and successfully repairing it so that it has given several years of service. He first carved out missing and broken parts of ivory to see if they would fit, and later made them of iron. In spite of the ducks and some fish and caribou from the interior the Eskimo is dependent upon the ocean for his sustainence. It is a surprising fact that the polar seas are the richest in marine life. This week jelly fish as large as a foot across are lodged by the hundreds against the Nunuvk beach. The tiny and small ocean life feeds the whales and the fishes. Fishes and larger invertebrates feed the seals and walrus, and it is the seals, walrus, and whales that sup-

Eskimo Notes

July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

port the Eskimo economy. Primitively the harpoon was the key to the whole picture and it was the development of this fairly complicated refinement of stone, bone, hide, and driftwood that allowed occupancy of the northern ocean shores. A harpoon as is referred to here implies a detachable head that lodges in the game and which is attached by a line to a float of some kind. Inflated seal skins are still used for this purpose. It is conjectured that as man moved into colder regions the most important change in the way of life was in the kind of fuel, from driftwood to seal oil or other animal fat. The skin shelter with driftwood fire demanded a large chimney opening and could not be used in extreme cold because too much fresh air had to be admitted to dispel the smoke. The snow house was the answer:



This could be heated by the small oil flame so that the living was comfortable but yet

Eskimo Notes

July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

not drafty. Only a tiny hole would be needed to allow ventilation. The passageway was used for meat storage for its temperature might be well below freezing while that of the upper room a comfortable 60° or 70°. Of course such a house must have been rather dimly lighted and without many conveniences, but the people were able to live in it. Besides the flesh and fat of sea mammals that supplied the vitamins and sustenance necessary to life the skin and bones provided clothing and tools. That was it. Trading with inland peoples provided furs of land mammals. I mentioned previously some of the facts concerning the eskimos of the Brooks range and their caribou economy. The May-June, 1953, Pacific Discovery is devoted to Alaska and contains several articles on the peoples of the Arctic Slope. Studies have been made of the fish life in Arctic waters and these reveal an abundance of kinds and some species occurring in great numbers. The Greenland Eskimos depend upon fish for part of their food but the same species here are not used. Inland lakes and streams contain fish if these creatures have been able to get there and if waters do not freeze solidly.

Eskimo Notes

July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska
That is, there are many sterile bodies of water that fish have not been planted in naturally or otherwise. The limiting factor of lakes freezing to the bottom is well demonstrated, for fish cannot live under such conditions of a yearly freeze up.

July 17 We had a thoroughly interesting lecture this evening concerning the ice island T-3 or as it is otherwise known, Fletcher's Island. The speaker was Charles Horvath, one of our summer investigators here, with the team from University of Southern California that is studying marine invertebrates. Charles spent last winter, from October to March, on the island. He flew in from the base at Thule, Greenland, and did not see the sun again until returning there in March, at which time an increasing period of twilight was observable after the months of total darkness. T-3 is a chunk of ice 9 miles long and 4 1/2 miles broad. Its thickness is about 180 feet. The island was about 245 miles from the north pole and through the 5 1/2 months it drifted 120 miles to the southeast. It is of interest that the island left, or has since left, the Alaska Air Command territory and has drifted

Eskimo Notes

July 17 Point Barrow, Alaska
into the territory of the Eastern Defence Command. Horwath had planned to return to the island this summer but because of the shift of the island the arrangements he made in preparation for the trip were nullified. His work concerned marine biology and he was able to carry out a full program in spite of the difficulties of working in the dark at temperatures that generally ran from 20° to 40° below zero. The lecture was well illustrated by many fine color photographs of the work and routine of living, flash pictures of course. There were 9 men in the group, including a navy commanding officer, a couple of radiomen, 2 meteorologists, 3 other investigators, and a cook. Charles work was done just off the island on the ice pack. Here he had to dig through only about 17 feet of ice in order to lower his nets, traps, thermometers, sampling devices and other instruments. They had a comfortable ice shelter over the ice hole and were able to work quite steadily. At least that was the impression given by this mild, quiet unassuming chap who did the work. He said the 5½ months seemed only about 2 weeks long. No doubt a great deal of effort

July 17 Point Barrow, Alaska

and energy was consumed just in living. There was one inconvenience of working on the ice pack. That was because there was a periodic shifting of it. Sometimes this resulted in crushing of the work shelter, and sometimes in casting it temporarily adrift from the ice island. Once the shelter broke in two. These ice movements were always gradual enough to that most of the equipment could be salvaged. Five times during the winter it was necessary to change location of investigative operations. Ocean depth there was 7000 feet. This base has opened a new field for Arctic Research, allowing long time observations in this area that have not before been possible. It will be remembered that there is no land mass at the north pole as is so at the south. The ice islands are termed "T" because they appear as "targets" on the radar device of weather aircraft that cruise over the region. Having a base within the region of the pole allows for less flights of weather aircraft, for much data can be accumulated and radioed out at intervals. The camp, or base, was about a mile from the edge of the island. Some of the details that apply here are available

Eskimo Notes

July 17 Point Barrow, Alaska

in a number of the National Geographic for sometime this past spring, a writeup by an earlier group upon the island. Most supplies had been brought in before winter and others needed were dropped by parachute, but no planes landed, except rarely. It is of interest that flights had to be made on clear nights for up there, beyond the range of radar beacons, the stars had to be relied upon for navigational calculations. Life on the island was far from boring, Horvath states; each person there had some special reason for wanting to go there. The cook's, one left when his time was up, came because 6 months of duty there was equivalent of 24 in Alaska, as foreign duty (air force) and would therefore allow return to the states 18 months early. No special qualifications were set up. The second cook was a colored fellow from Richmond, Va. He did fine. The holiday dinners were something to behold, as color photos indicated conclusively. The cook even posed with his chef's cap. The usual poker game whiled away many hours and the $18 cash among the men coiculated continuously. The last onion was kept and sprouted, placed inside a little fence, and labeled T-3

Eskimo Notes

July 17 Point Barrow, Alaska
National Forest. Little things like this kept up morale to a remarkable degree. The living and work quarters consisted of three prefab. huts placed end to end, giving a total area of 15 x 57 feet. To allow for instrument reading schedules, two meals were served each day, one in each 12 hours. In between one could have a snack at any time. An ice box full of all the choicest cuts of steak and chops, and hamburgers, was provided for these snacks. It worked out that the hamburger stack always had to be replenished first. American customs seem to go wherever Americans go.

July 23 The ice is slow to go this year, everyone is saying. It still is in close to the beach down at the village, the pack a jumbled mass of blocks that have been pitched about by the force of the wind that has driven the pack against the shore. The lead in front of the base is about half a mile wide and beyond the point there is a miles wide stretch of open water for the drift has been to the S.E. and E. The supply ships, however, are on the way and the ice breaker, Burton Island, has been sighted off Barrow, but it has

Eskimo Notes

July 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

since disappeared. A 2-man helicopter flies back and forth every once in a while on liaison missions, alighting just a few feet from the administration bldg., and on the ship itself. Base personnel are more numerous each day now and there is a general bustle of activity - strangers seem to appear from everywhere, but mostly on the 3 to 6 air force airplanes that have been coming and going each ~~at~~ day. The big operation this year is to carry excess equipment and supplies east to Barter Island (airforce base), return here, load up, and try to get back to Seattle before the ice closes in for the winter. There are about 300 on the mess list now and the main work has been to ready supplies and machinery for shipment. Apparently most of the oil drilling material will be going westward. Among the visitors is Col. Fletcher, air force, of the ice island, some hydrographers from Washington, and various specialty personnel to oversee and direct the loadings, and the navy and coast guard ice patrols, each equipped with a PBY amphibious plane. Since we have no docks here the ships

Eskimo Notes

July 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

will be loaded by the 20 or more landing craft and motor barges that have been in storage (set on blocks) up along the gravel spit toward Nuwuk. I suppose the ice will move; it usually does by August 1. A good stiff S.E. wind is what is needed now. In some years the ice has not moved, however; a notable example of this was in 1936 I learned just today. A Jim Ford blew in today and is my new roommate in the place of Frank Pitelka who left a week ago. Jim is an archeologist who came in '36 for the summer, or fall, and ended up remaining for 18 months because there was no way out. Apparently the ice moved in sooner than expected, and stayed. This was before there was anything but an occasional air flight to Barrow. Concerning the archeologists, the Harvardmen are now 5 strong and have 6 Eskimos working for them.

Aug. 2 Hopson visit

Aug. 11 Walrus hunt

Never found time to write down these events
PET

Tomich, Q. P.

1953

Alaska

Species Accounts

Tomich
1953

Gavia stellata

June 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
Pair near inlet S. of plot L.E. on a large pond where they may be established for nesting. These are the first that I have seen. They swam about in an apprehensive manner, staying together, but they did not dive, when we passed by at 100 yards in the weasel.

July 7 On Elson Lagoon along the route to Nuwuk we saw about 8 or 10 in early afternoon, as many as 4 together. The birds were close to the beach in the calmer water, somewhat protected from the N.W. wind. When approached with the weasel the general pattern was to fly off when we were about 100 yds. off. Twice the birds swung around and passed by in easy range. Only once did a loon dive before escaping by flight.

July 12 Five in flight, N., past Nuwuk.

July 13 Pair on pond near inlet, evidently breeding, (same location as June 29). One bird flew off when we were about 200 yards off in the weasel. The second allowed 3 of us to approach within 200' before flying; then both flew repeatedly over the area until we left.

July 30 One pair swimming on pond beside Inlet to S. of plot L.E., with 2 downy young. Adults flew off and disappeared over inlet when disturbed.

Jonich
1953

Gavia stellata

July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska
The downy young dove repeatedly in the pond. Nest with bits of egg shells near one end of pond; indicated pair seen here earlier was successful in bringing off their brood.

Tomich
1953

Gavia arctica

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
First positive identification of a loon when 4 of this species flew over Nuwuk this afternoon. The gray hind neck was prominent. Two seen on June 4 near Village apparently this species.

June 15 Two, singly, flew over Nuwuk this afternoon, bearing northward.

June 16 Two or 3 seen on trip to Barrow #3.

June 21 Two, not certainly identified at inlet near L.E. and two similarly unknown, over central marsh.

June 23 Two loons over L.E., unidentified.

June 27 One over plot L.E. in midafternoon, flying north.

June 29 One over plot L.E., midafternoon.

July 1 One over Marsh Plot, flying westward.

July 7 One over Nuwuk, one over base cackling continuously.

July 12 One on water in front of base (large lead) cackled several times, swam about, dived, and finally flew off N.E.

July 29 Birds seen nearly every day, one, or two together in flight over base area, often to and from the ocean.

Aug. 4 Several flew up the beach past the base this evening, high, singly or 2 and 3 together.

Jomich
1953

Gavia adamsii

June 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
Pete Sovalik reported one in the beach thaw pools of the ocean unable to take off because of insufficient open water. We went to the place and found the loon. It dove several times and finally came up where it could be shot and Frank Pitelka collected it. The loon made no attempt to leave the area by flying and it seemed to have enough room for a takeoff. This afternoon two made a trip from Elson Lagoon at L.E. off to the N.W. and later these possibly same birds returned. I could see them well and was sure of the identification. About 4 p.m. one flew down plat L.E. and at one place uttered a deep-voiced quacking which I had earlier attributed to a duck somewhere out of sight as two yellow-bills came in to land on the lagoon.

June 29 One on Elson Lagoon just off plat L.E.
July 10 Five on Elson Lagoon off plat L.E., in group.
July 12 One flying N.E. over Nuwuk.
July 15 Two this afternoon over Elson Lagoon.

Jonich
1953

Anser albifrons

June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
In the Village an eskimo woman stood holding two early this afternoon. One goose had black? splotches of feathers in the breast. The first of this species was noted May 29 at the lead in front of the village when Frank Pitelka identified one that flew alone to the north over a whole butchering party.

June 12 One in central marsh, foraging alone.

June 16 One pair at Barrow #3 appeared to be established and evidently is nesting for the birds returned twice in the 1½ hours we were at the camp site.

Jonsich
1953

Chen hyperborea

June 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
Three near fresh water lake in midafternoon. They were first seen in flight, but apparently were started up from the snow for they flew off about 300 yards and lit. After a minute or so of standing about they flew off to the N.E. First record for this season.

June 15 Two at Nuwuk, foraging on the flat toward the lagoon. When approached they flew off but in a few minutes apparently these same birds came back. The rusty wash over the head and neck was prominent in both birds.

June 19 Seven, including 3 immatures foraged all day in the central marsh area.

Branta bernicla

June 12 Point Barrow, Alaska

Two pairs in LiE in early afternoon. There was some conflict between the pairs when they came together. ? Then and at other times the birds made demonstrative gestures by extending the neck forward near the horizontal and walking or running about. This activity did not seem to be directed at anything in particular.

June 14 Two in central marsh this afternoon.

June 15 Two on flats toward Nuvuk in late afternoon. One ~~resp~~ repeatedly thrust its head forward so that body and head were about horizontal, although the neck weaved about and occasionally bent downward almost to the ground, with head still horizontal. The bird seemed not to be directing this activity at anything in particular but it might have been disturbed by our weasel 60 yards away. It walked about slowly, turning here and there.

June 16 Several pairs seen in marshy areas in Barrow #3 region. Two nests discovered; one on a small island in a small 3' deep lake, and one on a marshy peninsula jutting into the lake. Each nest was on a mossy mound, about a foot above water. One nest was about 100' from a glaucous gull nest on a similar 15' long island and the 2 brant nests

Branta bernicla

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska
about 100' apart. Clutches were 4 and 5.

June 18 Nest on slope of ridge toward Elson Lagoon with 4 eggs, about 12' from a short-eared owl nest discovered several days ago and on the same low mound.

June 19 Groups of 7 and 4 in central marsh. One new nest with clutch of 4 discovered there.

June 21 Nest located on just E. of L.E., with 5 eggs, ♀ on nest.

June 23 Two new nests just north of plot L.E. One has 5 eggs in the nest and a 6th egg nearly concealed in the thick down 2" below the outside of the nest rim. The other clutch is apparently not complete, with only 3 eggs. I saw no other than these 3 pairs of brant in the area.

June 24 at 1:30 p.m. nests N. of L.E. examined. They are about 120 yards apart, one 200' from beach and the other west. Both are ~~on~~ on black-top polygons which lie here with several ponds among them. Each is at the side rather than on top of a polygon, but not concealed by grass. Nest near beach with eggs covered, goose on the other; she did not flush when I passed 100' away. Nest at S. end of plot not examined; ♀ finally flushed when I walked past at about 75' after being in the area several minutes. I noted that both birds are banded on right leg. In the marsh between L.E. and L.W. 11 geese foraged for much of the afternoon.

Branta bernicla

June 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest with 2 eggs about 100' W. of snowy owl nest #2. Two other birds on inlet nearby. Nest east of L.W. destroyed and eggs gone. Nest of short-eared owl about 15' away destroyed and ♀ dead. No brant in the vicinity.

July 1 Flight of 16 in 2 or 3 groups over marsh plot in early afternoon. Later 9 were in one flock.

July 5 Two pairs besides 3 ~~nesting~~ nesting pairs at plot L.E. so that 6 birds gathered at one pond. There was some discord among them.

July 11 Hatching in progress on a nest between central marsh and plot L.W., close to the road. Gander moving about as if to distract intruders. Three chicks seen; full clutch 3 eggs.

July 12 Pair and 3 goslings crossing ridge on foot near S. end of Plot L.W., evidently the family from nest mentioned yesterday.

July 13 Group of 4 adults near inlet. One remained behind the others in their retreat. The three hurried out of sight down the slope toward the water. The remaining bird ran along the slope in a distraction display which revealed the white of the tail flashing from side to side. Tail was depressed and wings seemed to be used to aid the shuffling run, but they were not extended. At snowy owl nest #2 the brant is still incubating.

Branta bernicla

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest N.W. of plot L.E. with 3 of the 4 eggs pipped, adult incubating, and gander? 200' away.
Nest closer to beach hatched, two infertile eggs and one that failed to hatch left in nest, indicating that 3 chicks successfully departed from the nest.

July 16 Nest hatching near ponds between L.E. and L.W.; eggs pipped in nest N.W. of L.E.

July 20 All nests that I know of are now hatched.
Nest N.W. of L.E. 100% hatched as is nest between L.E. and L.W. Three brant in flight locally in this region; 5 over drum area in rapid direct S.W. flight on July 18.

July 24 Group of 5 flying E. over Nathi Station 10 a.m.

July 30 Nest near ~~sho~~ snowy owl nest #2 (Wohlschlag Slough) successfully 100% hatched some days ago.

Aug. 8 Flock of about 45 at Wohlschlag Slough, the first large group I have seen.

Jonich
1953

Anas acuta

June 5 Point Barrow, Alaska
Six rose from the drum area in a light snow fall at 7:40 a.m., and flew off to the east. These are the first we have found this season.

June 7 A flock of 11 at 9:35 a.m. flew about hesitatingly over the drum area, passed over the salt lake and finally lit, only to take off again. They circled again and came down near the same place.

June 8 Four in area S. of Britton wanigan this morning, and 2 near the dry lake, all at small ponds.

June 10 About 30 this morning on central marsh, 12 in one flock. The birds moved about when disturbed but did not ~~fly off~~ leave the area.

June 12 Several scattered in drum area this morning, with occasional birds in flight in or out of it.

June 14 Ten in drum area at 8 a.m.; two at a small pool on beach ridge and several on central marsh in the afternoon.

June 16 Occasional groups, as many as 12 together, and pairs, on trip to Barrow #3.

June 18 These birds have been remaining in groups later than any other local waterfowl, but pairs are established and seem to be nesting near L.W., on the marsh and on the ridge.

June 23 A lone ♂ flew over plot L.E. in mid afternoon, and was the only pintail I saw there. There has been a tapering off of their occurrence in that area; no nests discovered.

Anas acuta

June 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest about 160 yds. N. of N.E. corner L.E., about 100' from lagoon beach on well drained ground, on grassy polygon about 1' high. Nest down-lined, 6 eggs, 6' from a short-eared owl nest, at side of mound (distance by measurement). ♀ flushed when I was 20' off, in scuttling flight for 100' into wind; then she wandered off among the ponds. No ♂ in sight all afternoon.

June 26 One ♀ on central marsh. The birds now seem to have scattered and generally settled into breeding activity.

July 1 Nest, 6 eggs, on marsh plot.

July 5 No male now seen on plot L.E., or on marsh plot, as if mates of 2 nesting females have gone elsewhere.

July 10 Each of 6 eggs pipped in nest at N. end of plot L.E.; ♀, as usual, left the nest when the short-eared owl left her nest 6' away as I came up. ♀ left nest at New Pass when we came through on road in weasel and stopped.

July 12 Nest at new pass has hatched out with 100% success as no eggs are left, only shells of the hatched eggs.

July 14 New nest, six eggs, across road at New Pass from hatched nest and 93' away, discovered by Don Thompson. This nest is 58' from a short-eared owl nest.

Anas acuta

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest near S.E. corner of plot L.E. (see pg. 1 for Steller eider) hatching today. I have rarely seen this ♀ for she usually covers the nest and quietly leaves before I reach the area in censusing. Today she sat until I was 40' off and then she fled in a circle about 100' in diameter, fluttering over the ground and toward the ponds. Two ducklings tumbled from the nest and others followed, chirping. One was wet in the nest and another not out of the shell. 7 in all. Five left the nest and wandered as far as 10' away. I left hurriedly. The ♀, unlike the Steller eider seen today, was only 100' from the nest about 10 minutes later, still having not returned to it. The wariness of the pintail in this respect is markedly greater in the pintail than in the eider. Nest near N.E. corner of L.E. 100% successfully hatched, with 6 ducklings apparently leaving the nest.

July 18 Last evening the nest at new pass was in hatching process with two ducklings free of the shells. One was still moist.

July 19 Nest deserted, with 4 ducklings apparently successfully leaving; 2 infertile eggs. The ♀ had covered the hatching chicks and retreated before we examined the nest on evening of July 17.

Anas acuta

July 22 Point Barrow, Alaska
Head of ♀ on recently deserted mound of snowy owl nest #3. Parts of wings, skeleton, and feather groups on adjacent mound. Evidently the bird had been caught and eaten by the owls.

July 28 A third nest at New Pass is about 160' from the short-eared owl nest and about 120' from the duck nest. This nest had been broken up, the eggs pecked open by birds. Nest identified by comparison with others, the down tufts having a basal whiteness to each one.
At Birnik while watching eider flights I saw one group of 8 ♀ pintails that came over the shooting area. Eskimos stationed there unhesitatingly fired upon them and dropped one bird.

July 29 Flock of 42 foraging on inlet of salt water lake, near Voth's station.

July 30 One ♀ on fresh water lake. A nest at S.E. edge of Central Marsh on high polygon was deserted. It contained 7 eggs with well-developed embryos.

Aug. 8 Four females on Central Marsh.

Aug. 9 17 ♀'s on slough at Britton Manor.

Jonich
1953

Polysticta stelleri

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
Today I saw 3 pairs between the navy base and Ikrowik Lake, each foraging about in a small shallow pond. The birds were rather unwary. One pair remained in their pond as I came up only 150' away, then they walked off to the next pond some 20 yards farther. Finally they flew when I came up near them again. Others were similarly unconcerned when approached in the weasel.

June 10 Two pairs on central marsh.

June 13 One pair in drum area.

June 16 Pairs scattered out on ponds on route to Barrow #3 with about the same frequency of occurrence as near the base.

June 21 A ♀ on a pond near L.E. 3 or 4 times rose out of the water about 2' in its attacks on a pomarine jaeger that was worrying it.

June 23 At plot L.E. I saw three ducks in about the same combination as ~~yesterday~~ 2 days ago - a ♀ and 3 males at the north end, and a ♀ and 3 males at the south end. The one nest discovered is a pintail nest near the S.E. corner and now has 7 eggs. The ♀ was not on the nest but the eggs were covered and warm. On the 21st I found 6 eggs and the nest covered. A few minutes before when I was censusing about 100 yards away the ♀ was seen to sneak off on foot among the polygons.

Pintail

Polysticta stelleri

June 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest with 6 eggs about 60' S.E. of S. W. corner of plot L.E., located on mossy ridge 12" high on marsh ground. ♀ stayed on until I was 10' away; then she rushed off with a distraction display, staying about 30' off in the few seconds that I examined the nest. I followed and she led me about 100' where she fled into a pond. Nest with thin lining of black down.

June 27 Four males today in close company loafing and foraging on pond at L.E. I have found only one nest there.

June 29 One ♂ on L.E.; another on pond near inlet.

June 30 Group of 3 males and 1 ♀ in drum area.

July 4 New nest on Beach Ridge, 7 eggs, ♀ attending. Old nest there with but 2 eggs remaining. ♀ stayed on until Thompson and I were up beside the nest and the bird was touched by hand. She then waddled off without any display or calls.

July 10 New nest, 7 eggs, ♀ incubating, at east edge of plot L.W.

July 12 On beach ridge beyond H.H.C.S. the two females are still incubating, one with 2 eggs and the other with 6 eggs (see July 4).

July 15 At S. end of plot L.E. the ♀ leaped at me as I passed 6' from the nest. She repeated the leap, with bill open, and then scuttled around me, about 10' away. I followed in a mach

Polysticta stelleri

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
attempt to catch the ♀ but she fluttered and ran along about 120', directly when I ran after her, to a pond. There she fluttered and beat the water moving along about 10' offshore. I ran along the shore as if to pass her but she kept ahead. I stopped and the duck swam about 30' out where she seemed to be refreshing herself by pecking at the water, rising, and flapping wings vigorously. I continued on up the pond and she stayed. When I had gone only 60' and was some 250' from the nest the ♀ flew back directly to it. All 6 eggs were pipped I discovered when the duck first flushed. New nest with 5 eggs along road between plots L.E. and L.W., on slight ridge 8"-12" high about 40' from a pond. Nest near central marsh lakes broken up, the young eaten from the shells, evidently by a jaeger. The eggs were strewn as far as 4' from the nest and shells were crushed and pierced by a bird's bill.

July 20 Nest S.W. edge of L.E. 100% hatched; ♀ on pond 100' away but ducklings not evident. Between L.E. and L.W. a ♀ shuffled over the ground as if to lead me away from a nest or ducklings. No males in evidence.

Polysticta stelleri

Point Barrow, Alaska

July 20 Nest on Beach Ridge between antennae 100% hatched; both eggs of nest S. of antennae toward lake also hatched.

July 22 Group of 4 ♀ and 1 ♂ together on central marsh. A ♂ there with body molt, but not tail molt, in progress had a healing broken wing but could not fly. New nest with 6 eggs on flat part of marsh near L.V.T. tracks. Eggs fertile but not pipped; ♀ incubating.

July 25 At the gravel spit ponds there was a flock of about 50, 5 or 6 of which were males. Near here on a sand bar of the lagoon there were 3 ♂ ♀ and 4 ♂ Steller eiders.

July 28 Group of 5 ♀ at Brinik on flight route out to sea.

July 30 Ducklings with females now fairly common on the ponds. Good-sized groups indicate a successful hatch. Two females, or more, are sometimes together in community care of the young. Thompson has figures on brood size.

Aug. 1 Fourteen ~~at~~ ducklings with 2 females reported from near gas well.

Aug. 3 When we passed near nest reported July 22, on July 30, a ♀ left as if flushed but we did not stop. Today we found ♀ with 3 young hatched only one or two days ago. They were small and weak, easily caught by hand as they swam

Polysticta stelleri

Aug. 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
in water-filled LVT tracks. These apparently are the hatch from the nearby nest, but we could not locate the nest itself, somewhere within 100 yards.

Aug. 4 Group of 6 females flying just over the water, down the beach at Bernik (southwest).

Jonich
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Arctonetta fischeri

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska
One ♂ seen and another or the same one collected at Barrow #3. Near Ikroumik Lake a pair was collected from 3 birds seen. A pair was swimming in a ditch about 1/2 mile S. of Britton Wanigan.

June 18 Three females, 1 ♂ flying west over village road at 9 p.m.

June 19 Three males flying west across central marsh at 5 p.m.

July 29 Five females in rapid direct flight down the inlet of the salt water lake, ~~low~~ past Vathi Station.

Somateria spectabilis

June 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
Male in thaw puddle N. side of drum area, 11 pm.
June 29 Male, apparently same one, asleep beside ditch at west of drum area, again close in toward buildings, at 11:20 a.m. It watched me when I was 150' off and when I stopped 20' away it became alert, easily slipped into the water, swimming away. A few minutes later it was again resting on the bank.
July 1 Flock of about 40, no females seen among them, flew off tundra from N.E. across drum area, over base and in turning flight N.W out over the ocean. This apparently is a back migration.
July 7 Flock of about 14, all males, crossed drum area to south in late morning. At Nuwuk in the afternoon I saw 2 flocks, one of about 20 and the other of about 50. Only one ♀ was distinguished among them.
July 21 Today a flock of about 300 passed over the drum area in late afternoon and I could see that only an occasional one was a ♀. Ducks were flying in the greatest numbers I have seen, today, with flocks at about 3-5 ~~most~~ minute intervals, possibly largely this species. Dick Person has been censusing eiders by means of a daily one-hour check after dinner at British, and with the aid of the Carter group which is excavating 6 days each week at the site. A dead ♂ yesterday on L.E. had been shot.

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Somateria spectabilis

July 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
Flocks of returning migrant eiders are almost exclusively of males and the birds I have identified are largely this species.

Jonich
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Somateria mollissima

Aug. 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
In the eider flocks I have seen some ducks that are of this species. An Eskimo told me that this bird is larger than the King and its wing-beat is noticeably slower

Jonich
1953

Melanitta perspicillata

Aug. 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
Pete Sovalik brought in a ♂ shot near Barrow Village a few days ago. Weight 1049 gm. I started to skin the bird but discarded it when I pulled the head off. Bill Thompson kept the skull. The bird had only light to moderate fat on it. It is the only one I have observed.

Jonich
1953

Clangula hyemalis

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
This morning in about 2 hours of hunting and observation I saw about 15 flights of old-squaw at Nuwuk. The birds were all high, several hundred feet, and extended in fairly regular lines.

June 3 One large flock passed over the base.

June 5 Several flocks over the base area today, all high.

June 7 Two flocks seen over Nuwuk in afternoon.

June 10 One pair in central marsh and one pair at Pitelka flats.

June 12 Pair flushed from drum area.

June 16 Pairs scattered in country about Barrow #3, 2 pairs at the site and one nest with 2 eggs found there.

June 18 Nest with 2 eggs found in L.W; a pair on a pond 100 yards away. This nest is about 8' from a short-eared owl nest which has the clutch just about completed.

June 20 Flocks of 14, including about 7 males and 7 females, in low flight over drum area, as if in local flight movement.

June 23 One ♂ calling on pond in S.W. portion of L.E. this afternoon. When I arrived there in the drizzling rain the duck was gone. A pair is often seen in the thawed edge of fresh water lake, along road to A.A.C.S. station.

Clangula hyemalis

June 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
Twenty-six at 1 pm. in stretch of water between shore and ice of fresh water lake. About same number at 4:30. One ♂ at plot L. E. stayed briefly on a pond, calling several times. Among the 26 there were many females but it appeared, without counting, that males were more numerous.

June 26 About 60 on thawed S. edge of fresh water lake, at two different times that I passed that place.

June 27 Still numerous on fresh water lake.

June 29 Only a few on fresh water lake, one on inlet near plot L. E.

July 4 Six or 8 along slough that feeds salt water lagoon, S.E. of Britton Wanigan.

July 5 Groups of 17 and 7 going N.W. up lagoon past plot L. E. apparently mostly males.

July 7 Small flocks flying about over the lead in front of the base, little definite southward movement. Concentrations, in hundreds, of these birds in lead of Elson Lagoon along gravel spit to Elwitkak Pass. The ducks were in general movement around the point over the drifting ice, and down the lagoon lead, to the N.W. Flocks were predominantly males, sometimes exclusively of this sex. This was the most abundant bird seen, possibly 500 in all.

Clangula hyemalis

July 10 Point Barrow, Alaska
One or two small flights off plot L.E. this afternoon; 4 birds at rest on Elson Lagoon.

July 13 About 20 on fresh water lake this afternoon; no large groups here recently.

July 19 At Nuwuk and along the spit toward Deadman's Island old squaws were active all afternoon. There were occasional flights of one or two birds or small flocks, locally. On the gathered floating broken ice and in the openings of the north part of the lagoon there were occasional flocks of as many as 20 to 50.

July 26 Flock of 8 on gravel spit ponds beyond the airport, and 3 together on the lagoon. A flock of about 15 swept over the drum area, to the N.E. last evening, as if to alight on the fresh water lake. Flocks now have both males and females prominently represented.

July 29 Occasional small groups 2-10 are as many of these as I have seen recently.

Jonich
1953

Falco peregrinus

July 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
One on a 20' tall pole at A.A.C.S. was seen at 150' and its identification as a duck hawk was to me satisfactory. The black marks on the sides of the face and the bluish back were readily visible.

July 31 The duck hawk has been about A.A.C.S. for 3 days now, sometimes perched on poles near insulators. However, twice I have shot at it with buckshot, #9 next smallest available size, but have not secured the specimen.

Aug. 3 Duck hawk again on pole near A.A.C.S. It has become rather wary and flies off readily.

Jonich
1953

Lagopus lagopus

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska

In midafternoon one stood erect in the snow of the tundra area about 3 miles south of the base as we cruised in a weasel. It was black about the neck and breast, and white elsewhere. The bird stood broadside to us and flew when we were still some 150 yards off. The flight was low, fast and direct, somewhat curving because of slight maneuvering. We moved up again and the bird flushed when we were about 200 yards off. It was lost in its low flight, over a ridge in rough tundra.

Jonich
1953

Grus canadensis

June 18 Point Barrow, Alaska

One on open tundra S. of L.E. It was walking about nearly 3/4 mile away, evidently suspicious of me. After about 10 minutes the bird flew off north, coming closer. A territorial jaeger chased it out over Elson Lagoon and the bird maneuvered about, nearly to L.E., but then went off to the S.E. This was my first sight of a crane at Barrow.

Tomich
1953

Pluvialis dominica

June 2 Point Barrow, Alaska
One in late afternoon about 1 mi. S.E. of Britton wanigan, the first I have seen.

June 4 One on tundra about 3 miles S. of base.

June 8 Three seen on tundra to south, each alone.

June 10 Two or three seen on trip to central marsh.

June 12 ~~About 4~~ Four seen, on L-E and central marsh.

June 14 Two on beach ridge this afternoon, not established.

June 15 Three together flying up the lagoon beach at Nuwuk and one single on the gravel spit near there.

June 16 Occasional golden plovers seen on route to Barrow #3.

June 21 Two pairs seem to be located, one just S. of A.A.C.S. station and one near N. end of central marsh.

June 23 One pair possibly located at west side of plot L.E.

June 24 One pair at base of beach ridge on central marsh side, between beverage antennae. One bird feeding quietly at plot L.E., as if member of a nesting pair.

June 26 Nest discovered on beach ridge slope to south toward lake, about 200' from pole beverage antenna; 4 eggs, adult gave distraction display. Site on irregular ground, vegetation sparse and background blackish. Another nest on similar ground in marsh plot. It merely ran off from the nest when disturbed.

Pluvialis dominica

June 27 Point Barrow, Alaska
Three in central marsh feeding in flock of dow-
itchers.

July 5 Pair on plot L.E. no chicks found with them.

July 12 Nest on beach ridge toward lake abandoned
~~since~~ before rain of last week. Eggs intact.

July 20 Ten in group on L.W., no chicks around; a few
other individuals toward L.E.

July 22 Ten in group among high polygons at S. end
of Central Marsh, no chicks.

July 26 One adult with one or more chicks at mash
plot this afternoon. Young hid or slipped
away and could not be relocated at close
range.

July 31 Several single adults on beach ridge that are
concerned about disturbance, evidently with
chicks in their care.

Aug. 9 The birds now seem all to be in winter
plumage as all of about 25 seen between
Village and base, inland, were brownish; some
may have been young birds.

Aug. 10 Six seen in Central Marsh all in winter
dress; one collected at fresh lake.

Jonich
1953

Oxyechus vociferus

Aug. 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
One heard calling and seen in fog in the drum area, the first I have detected here.
Aug. 6 One calling on ground in drum area. Both records near X and Y trap sites.
Aug. 10 One in drum area.
Aug. 11 One in drum area.

Jonich
1953

Arenaria interpres

May 26 Point Barrow, Alaska - One in bright plumage. foraging on snow-free spots in the disturbed area S.E. of the buildings at 2 p.m. and for at least 1/2 hour, was the first one I have found here. It tossed bits of turf about in active feeding.

June 1 A ♂ seen and collected as it foraged alone near the Eskimo ruins at Nuwuk. Shore birds are arriving but we saw no others of these all day.

June 4 One about 3 mi. S. of base.

June 5 Two or three in drum area; two seen together and one alone. The single bird watched cautiously from a mound of earth as I came near, and flew only when I was about 50' off.

June 7 Two feeding along route to Nuwuk.

June 12 One on P'stelka flats.

June 14 One in drum area.

June 15 One on flats of gravel spit, foraging alone.

June 21 Pair just S. of A.A.C.S. station are the only ones I know of in the region of study.

June 24 Two at north end of plot L.E. foraging and resting.

June 26 One at S. end of lake in central marsh.

July 4 When Thompson discovered a nest with 3 yng. on ridge behind A.A.C.S. two pairs of adults appeared.

Arenaria interpres

July 12 Point Barrow, Alaska
One on beach ridge, apparently a parent with young nearby, near place where young were banded.

July 26 One on beach of fresh water lake.

July 28 One adult and 5 young able to fly on beach ridge near New Pass. I could not account for there being so many young and only one adult but careful and close observation showed this to be true. Possibly two pairs nested on this part of the ridge.

July 29 One at Britton Manor.

Aug. 3 One on shore of fresh water lake.

Aug. 8 About 30 on beach at mess hall, feeding at sink drain outlet.

Aug. 10 Four at beach of fresh lake.

Jonich
1953

Ereunetes pusillus

June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
Two foraging at edge of thaw pools in area about 3 mi. S. of base.

June 6 One at thaw pools at base.

June 8 One near Ikrowik Lake today.

June 12 About 10 seen, on L-E and central marsh.

June 19 One calling in flight over L.W. this afternoon.

July 13 Incubation of nest in progress on L.W.

July 26 Where a pectoral sandpiper flew about as we scanned the marsh plot there was also a semipalmated sandpiper that made a similar disturbance as if it had young in the vicinity.

July 29 Flock of 25-30 feeding on beach of inlet between Britton Manor and Vath's Station. There seemed to be young or newly molted birds in the group.

July 30 Flock of about 10 most of the day in drum area; another group along fresh-water lake. Two flocks 8-15 birds in Central Marsh.

Aug. 3 Flock of about 25 along shore of fresh lake.

Aug. 10 Small flocks regularly seen along shores of ponds and lakes where there are beaches. About 40 Aug. 8 at Brimik near mounds.

Tomich
1953

Erolia bairdii

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
About 5 seen at Nuwuk where they were foraging as many as 3 together this morning. Two seen at the airstrip. Several times they sang in flight at both locations, long wavering, and musical sounds. I shot one at Nuwuk.

June 2 These birds seen regularly about the base and on the tundra, usually 2 or 3 together in flight that involves territorial dispute, accompanied by songs and calls.

June 4 Past two days have shown this bird to be in small numbers, not more than 3 together, at several places on the tundra and adjacent to the base.

June 5 These birds continuously in the disturbed area adjacent to the base, singly or as many as four together. There was considerable discord among them, resulting in frequent chasings.

June 6 The wing display, raising of one wing nearly to vertical, is now frequently given. This morning I saw one bird in the drum area calling just after alighting, and it raised the left wing for several seconds. A brown lemming was running easily along the snow edge and stopped, crouching with back to the snow and facing toward the sandpiper

Erolia bairdii

June 6 Point Barrow, Alaska
about 2' away. The sandpiper turned toward the lemming and tilted its body forward with neck slightly outstretched, as if watching the lemming. The sandpiper held its tail up to the rear at 45° and seemed to be calling. The left wing rose nearly to vertical maximum extension, was held perhaps 3 seconds, and then was gradually lowered, suddenly to a nearly folded position and then slowly and carefully the last 1/2 inch or so. Soon the other wing was raised in a similar manner, and brought down. The lemming kept still. The sandpiper then turned broadside and then began to walk away. After a few seconds it flew some 30' in that direction toward a second sandpiper I had not seen before, on the next snow-free polygon.

June 12 This is the commonest shore bird in the disturbed area about the base.

June 13 Nest with 3 eggs at CAA range. Bird left the nest and moved slowly from it, feigning injury.

June 14 Three nests with 4 eggs each on beach ridge. Each nest was easily found by watching the parent bird return to it, which it quickly did after the observer withdrew about 100' from where he first noted the bird get up. The most frequent mannerism of the bird was

Erolia bairdii

June 14 Point Barrow, Alaska
that of flying back and forth, or around the observer in flights of 100 to several hundred feet, and uttering a plaintive call. Often the bird would alight and if followed would tend to lead the observer away, but not by a pronounced faking of injury. The four eggs in each nest were arranged with the points turned to the center, neatly filling the nest.

June 15 Along the gravel spit and toward Nuwuk I saw about 6 birds this afternoon, singly or in pairs. Thompson collected one bird. His first shot injured the bird. It flew about 50 yards and lit, crouching motionless on the gravel. The ♂ then came to it; both had been feeding together with a 3rd one that flew off. Almost immediately he mounted the ♀ and copulation seemed to take place. From the rear at quite a distance I could see the male's wings raised nearly to vertical and vibrating. The action, possibly because of the condition of the ♀, lasted an estimated 10 seconds, long enough for me to discover it, watch momentarily, and then to raise my glasses and study the pair. The ♂ dismounted and then proceeded with an elaborate display. He settled into a slightly squatting position and with rapid short steps moved in a half circle to the right

Erolia bairdii

June 15 Point Barrow, Alaska.

before the ♀, exposing his right side and rear right quarter toward her. The tail was down, spread, and seemed to be held slightly to the right. The back seemed to also be a part of the display for the left wing was raised, but not unfolded, in such a manner as to expose the scapulars and humerals. The left wing was raised about ½ inch. It seemed also that the right one drooped toward the ground to complement the position of the tail. The display lasted perhaps 5 seconds, and was repeated once. As Thompson approached, the ♂ assumed an alert stance and ran off about 10' in stages. When the ♀ was shot the ♂ flew off. I have used in this description the terms ♂ and ♀ merely to designate the birds in their respective parts. It was impossible, of course to determine the sexes, except in the bird collected, which turned out to be a ♂.

June 16 This species seemed to be about as frequently occurring in Barrow #3 region as near the base.

July 1 Nest near A.A.C.S. road beyond dump, 4 eggs, ♂ flushed when weasel passed 6' away.

July 7 Nest on beach of Elson lagoon among scraps of driftwood, about 50' from water, on low gravel strip, contained 4 eggs being incubated.

Erolia bairdii

July 31 Point Barrow, Alaska
Adult and 1 downy young that actively ran about, at New Pass.

Aug. 5 Adults in drum area, evidently a pair, making distraction displays. Young unable to fly seen near fresh lake yesterday.

Jonich
1953

Erolia melanotus

June 6 Point Barrow, Alaska
Occasional birds seen now. First record June 1. One foraged today at the base, at thaw pools.

June 10 About 10 seen, as many as 3 together, in central marsh, this morning.

June 14 Pectorals few, only 2 seen on beach ridge.

June 21 This species seen at 3 or 4 locations along the route from L. E. to pipeline, generally along the beach ridge.

June 23 One pair established at west side of plot L. E. for when two birds foraged together one of these drove off a third bird that lit 60' away. In the drizzling rain I did not hear any flight display song.

July 1 This species among the more prominent birds at marsh plot today. Six in one group, 4 in another, and several chases and displays by a ♂ observed generally over the area. No nests found.

July 4 Groups of 3 and 6 seen on Beach Ridge behind A.A.C.S.

July 10 Flocks of 16, 14, and 3 on plot L. E. I have seen no nests this year.

July 20 One on plot L. E.

July 24 Occasional birds on central marsh.

July 26 One on marsh plot apparently with young for it flew about, calling for several minutes, and once made a long low distraction flight.

Erolia melanotus

July 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
Twice when we came into the area in the censusing the bird flew about, but made the display only once, a slow labored flight in which the bird gradually planed to the grass about 75' off and fluttered and ran about after passing near me.

Aug. 4 Flock of 6 or 8 in Central Marsh; young able to fly among them.

Aug. 8 Some of these mixed in flocks of Baird sandpipers at slough near Village, but generally these birds occur in small flocks of their own species in the marsh areas and are possibly the most commonly seen shore bird in Central Marsh.

Tomich
1953

Erolia alpina

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
Two singles in area about 3 mi. S. of base.

June 2 One seen on mid ridge with a ruddy turnstone; another, same area, with two Baird sandpipers.

June 3 On ridge area several times in the afternoon there was considerable discord that was apparently associated with pairing and nesting territories.

June 6 Two at base today foraging in shallow pools. They were less wary than bairdii and could be approached within 40'.

June 8 About 10 seen on the tundra today, on the ground and generally in pairs. At other times some were flying about over territorial matters.

June 14 Only one seen on beach ridge this afternoon.

June 21 A pair of red-backs is established in the north part of L.E. for one bird alone there obviously attempted to lead me from there by flying for short distances ahead and calling plaintively.

July 15 One on plot L.E. today, feeding quietly. We have supposed that these birds have nested there but have found no nest. One or two pairs were localized on or near the plot for some weeks.

July 16 Single adult collected at Voth's Station, a ♀, but I could not locate young there. The bird seemed attached to the place.

July 17 Single individual beyond 17.7.C.S., but no chicks found.

Erolia alpina

July 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
One adult and 3 young well able to fly on the marsh plot, largest young I have seen.

July 29 One adult, and one downy young well able to run about, on plot L. E. Three dead downy young on L. W. at ridgetop, two huddled together and one 20" away. These had been dead sometime, apparently from exposure.

~~Aug. 3 Flock of about 25 along shore of fresh lake.~~

Aug. 9 Flocks not noted, but some among other species, particularly Baird sandpipers. There seem to be ~~be~~ in general few red-backs at this time

Jonich
1953

Limnodromus ~~griseus~~ Scolopaceus

June 19 Point Barrow, Alaska
One calling in flight over central marsh plot was the first I have observed.

June 20 One near beverage antenna S. of Britton wangan this morning.

June 22 Two in late afternoon foraged at a pond in drum area.

June 23 One quietly feeding just west of plot L.E.

June 26 Group of 7, and later a group of 5, besides several passing birds, 1 to 3 at a time, in central marsh this afternoon. There was no certain evidence of pair formation, but in flight there was a frequent calling.

June 27 One flock of 7 and another of 22 in central marsh at 4 p.m. Pitelka collected 2 birds.

July 1 None seen today in central marsh.

Aug. 8 Two feeding together in wet place between Village and Voth's station.

Jomich
1953

Stercorarius pomarinus

May 25 Point Barrow, Alaska - At about 4:40 p.m. 4 were flying together in a loose flock to the west over the village road from the base, and out over the ice. These are the first I have detected.

May 28 Five or 6 about the tundra study areas this afternoon, singly and 2 together. One bird had an injured leg and tended to sit on the snow when not disturbed. It flew off readily several times and could not be collected. No dark phase plumages detected.

May 29 Of about 15 birds seen in area between base and gas well and toward Village, two were in black phase plumage. The birds were scattered out, one alone or two together. At one place a flying bird several times swooped at one on the snow.

June 1 Activity on the tundra about the same as on May 29, but today frequent waaa calls were heard, none of which was noted 2 days ago. It might be added that pairing and territorial establishment seemed to be accelerated. Two dark phase birds were seen. There were occasional single birds and one rested on a prominent mound as if on a nest, but there was no nest.

Stercorarius pomarinus

June 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
On the Ridge area I noted a raised wing threat display by one bird as another flew overhead.

June 4 One dark phase bird in area south of the base this afternoon. Two found this afternoon in steel fox traps on tundra. Each had one leg caught and broken. The traps have been exposed by advancing melt off, likely in the last day or two, after laying beneath the snow over possibly much of the winter. We could not determine what prompted the birds to step into the traps.

June 6 In the past two days several birds have been in and about the drum area, and calling is occasionally heard there. At 7:20 a.m. today 3 birds were on the ground. One had its wings raised and the other two stood with their breasts prominently displayed, leaning back a little, standing together about 2' from the other bird that was on higher ground. Then one of the two pecked at the other and drove it away. The third bird on higher ground meanwhile had lowered its wings.

June 8 These birds are common inland in the dry lake-Ikrowik Lake area, about the same density as in the beach ridge area. I collected one specimen today.

Stercorarius pomarinus

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
One taken about 2 mi. S. of Britton Wanigan was a breeding ♂, testis 20 mm.

June 12 One dark phase bird often over drum area the past few days, and apparently established there.

June 15 About 8 birds at Nuwuk. There was a continuous conflict among several that were hunting over the flats.

June 18 One on territory at L.E. pursued a short-eared owl about 200 yards, calling loudly, and owl led it several hundred feet upward. Another chased a sandhill crane far out over Elson Lagoon from near the south end of the plot.

June 23 At plot L.E. 2 nests occur at the west side and one near the S.E. corner, none on the plot itself. Each of these pairs has 2 eggs. This afternoon there was almost constant bickering between the pairs and passing or interloping birds. When a short-eared owl was flushed, apparently the ♂ of a nest at the east side, 2 jaegers drove it in erratic flight out over the lagoon. The owl, as seems to be usual, led the jaegers upward for about 200' and maneuvered strenuously to avoid them.

June 26 Territorial jaegers pursued a snowy owl when we flushed the ♂ from his perch about

Stercorarius pomarinus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
300' from the owl nest, within the jaeger territory. When the ♂ owl again settled on his perch the jaegers did not disturb him.

July 4 Pair collected S. of Britton's for Pitelka to examine brood patches. Prominent paired patches in male and in ♀.

July 5 One member of a nesting pair spent several minutes apparently digging for a lemming. It leisurely tossed pieces of turf and moss to the sides and rear, but made no motions as if actually attempting to grasp the mouse. The jaeger gave up this activity and hunted from the air with bill turned vertically downward. Alighting after 100' the jaeger pulled a dead lemming which I had seen several minutes before, from shallow water. The lemming had been dead for some time and did not seem to be suitable as food for after a few pecks at it the jaeger flew off.

July 10 In casual checking of nests today I noted the first chicks I have seen. One nest contained one possibly 2 or 3 days old, for it walked from the nest after I handled it. The other was not nearby. Nest at S.E. ~~side~~ corner of L.W. had one pipped egg; dates of egg-laying known by Pitelka. Another nest contained one small chick and an egg.

Stercorarius pomarinus

July 12 Point Barrow, Alaska

Hatching is proceeding rapidly in this species. Nests encountered at random today were in the following stages:

Nest	Eggs	Chicks	Remarks
1.	0	2	
2.	1	1	(one egg pipped)
3.	1	1	(one egg pipped)
4.	0	1	(one egg clutch)
5.	0	2?	(one chick seen)
6.	0	2?	(no chicks seen, 2 adults)
7.	1	1	(freshly hatched)

The birds have become more vigorous in their attacks. At one nest as I took pictures a bird repeatedly dove at me and 3 times lightly struck my head, apparently with a foot, as it went by. At some nests both parents would fly at me, but at others only one bird would do so. Yesterday near a nest one bird repeatedly flew at the weasel and twice brushed the canvas top of it.

July 13 Nests not seen yesterday but visited today were in the following states: (1) - one egg (pipped) and one chick; (2) - one egg and one chick.

July 15 Nests seen today contained: (1) - one chick, the other evidently in the vicinity; (2) - no chicks but the adults nearby (2 egg clutch); (3) - 1 chick, one egg in

Stercorarius pomarinus

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
process of hatching; 1 egg, this nest not ready to hatch so evidently the other egg is missing.

July 17 Nests seen today two, both hatched, chicks not seen but adults guarding vicinity. At L.E. on July 15 I saw 3 birds about 200 yards out on the floating lagoon ice. Two came in and had an altercation with a nesting pair but the third remained perched for half an hour or more on the ice.

July 20 Nest at S. end of L.E., to S.W., has one fluid-filled egg still being incubated. This nest may have had a second egg. Earlier notes indicate the clutch size. Other nests in this area are all hatched.

July 26 Several young in marsh plot with flight feathers in A, B, or nearly C stages. The birds are docile and do not attempt to run off when disturbed. There is considerable discord among the various pairs in the marsh and some of the birds may be wandering unsuccessful breeders that can move little without infringing upon established territories. At the S.E. corner of the plot 7 birds were briefly involved in a dispute and to the north of the plot another 7 were similarly engaged about an hour later. Birds that dived at us when we were near the young often

Stercorarius pomarinus

July 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
interrupted this activity to drive off intruding jaegers that passed through.

July 28 This evening I noted 20 to 30 jaegers in flight, milling about on Brant Point, from Birnik. There were frequent flights on one or two back and forth to sea, over the spit.

July 29 Going to the marshy flats at Brant Point this afternoon I found 24 jaegers on the ground at one place. I went there and the birds dispersed. At the place were concentrated abundant activity of lemmings that had broken-roofed runs in the moss surface, over an area about 50' wide. The jaegers had thoroughly worked the area so that sod tufts picked from the runway roofs lay scattered everywhere and the burrow system was thoroughly opened up. Stretches of the habitat of that area had no lemming sign. Apparently the abundance of lemmings at this spot attracted many jaegers. After the birds scattered I counted 49 flying about or perched on the tundra within the territory about ½ mile across, around me. Some of these may have been birds in charge of their young, but I saw no

Stercorarius pomarinus

July 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
young as I worked in the area. Alan Ahers killed an adult near new pass by throwing a clod of sod at it when it dove at him. Ahers did not quite understand the actions of the birds in its vigorous defense of the territory occupied by the young and was attempting to frighten off the pair.

Aug. 3 Young in central marsh still docile and offering no retreat when approached. One bird hobbled along in a hunched wavering walk and swam into a pond when we were 150' away with the weasel. A second bird there lay quietly but opened its bill when handled. Wing feathers are developing in C stage, with some down showing among the scapulars. In most advanced growth these down tufts are absent.

Aug. 8 Between Village and nearly to Voth's Station no sign whatsoever of this bird. The nesting extends about ½ mile south of Voth's Station and Britton Manor areas. This was an amazing revelation. Possibly some birds that began nesting near the village were shot out or nests robbed, but the answer seems more to be the almost entire lack of lemmings on the high ground at each side of the deep slough near Barrow.

Jonich
1953

Stercorarius parasiticus

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska
One in drum area this afternoon, the first I have encountered.

June 16 One pair at Barrow #3.

June 24 One dark phase bird seen near base along Village Road.

June 28 One with broken wing in drum area, collected.

July 1 Dark phase bird alone over central marsh.

July 7 Dark phase bird alone over gravel spit on route to Nuwuk.

July 28 Dark phase individual at Birnik.

Jonich
1953

Stercorarius longicaudus

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
One, the first of the season, on the gravel spit between Brinik and Nuwuk.

June 11 One in dawn area this afternoon

June 15 A ♂ with large testes collected at Nuwuk. A second bird with it was apparently its mate for it remained close by and was concerned when the ♂ fell. However, it was soon foraging as the collected bird had by hovering on the gentle east wind, about 10' above ground, apparently for brown lemmings.

June 19 One or two disputing with a pair of ~~Rotheon~~ pomerines over central marsh. The latter birds have a nest there (2 eggs) and drove off the long-tails, which, however, were more maneuverable.

June 21 Two working north, foraging, from north end of L.E.

June 22 Two, one black phase with faint white or yellow neck band, at S. edge of drum area near lagoon. They foraged without interference from a nearby nesting pair of pomarines.

June 27 One flew alone down the beach past L.E.

July 19 One flew alone N.W. along the beach at Nuwuk.

Tomich
1953

Larus argentatus

June 27 Point Barrow, Alaska
From plot L. E. this afternoon I saw a gull that was white except for the wingtips that were black dorsally. It flew north over the lagoon. About an hour later 5 more in a loose flock moved along this same route. I could see the black of the wingtips only when the birds dipped in a certain way.

July 7 Two, and perhaps other, flying N.W. at Nuwuk.

Jonich
1953

Larus hyperboreas

May 17 Point Barrow, Alaska – Two at 5:43 a.m. in flight over the drum area and moving steadily toward Barrow Village, uttering occasional somewhat goose-like squawks. The birds were high and dimly outlined against the low overcast. In midmorning I heard these sounds again but seemingly localized toward Barrow Village.

May 19 One flew S.W. over the base at 8:20 p.m., off the sea ice. These birds are reported feeding off whale remains along the lead in front of the Village area.

May 20 One at 2:50 p.m. flying from sea ice at base toward Barrow Village, several hundred feet in the air as were the other ones I have seen. Five at 6:40 p.m. wheeling and flying out over the sea ice north of the base, two couples and a single, with considerable calling.

May 21 Occasional single birds or 2 or 3 together out over the ice this morning. Between 8 and 11 p.m. on a trip to the lead I saw occasional birds which seemed to be this species.

May 22 At 9:30 a.m. 6 or 8 at the garbage dump just out on the ice past the theatre.

Larus hyperboreas

May 23 Point Barrow, Alaska - At 8:40 a.m. a flock of 15 hovered over the base, working gradually southward ~~across~~ the wind and snow storm. Eight others were moving N.E. out over the ice. All had evidently been near the garbage dump. Increase in numbers of these birds near the base may be due to the absence of new whales caught in the past 2 weeks or so. A flock of 85 was reported over the ice this morning. In the early afternoon I saw 3 on the snow and flying about, over a lake near the gas well. The 3 birds moved about in company.

May 24 Forty-two at 10:15 a.m. over the ice in front of base. Others sporadically through the day in the area, usually 2 to 5 at a time.

May 25 Several frequently near the base and out on the ice through the day.

May 26 Several over the garbage area in front of the base. Two at 3 p.m. at the drum stacks, merely passing over.

May 27 Two to 5 seen flying about the base many times in the day. Three on snow in drum area about 8 p.m., possibly hunting lemmings. The birds do not come low over the buildings, and have

Larus hyperboreas

May 27 Point Barrow, Alaska - not been on the ground among the buildings, where there is little or nothing to attract them.

May 29 Small groups continue to fly over the ~~sd~~ base several times a day. In the afternoon we saw small groups out on the open tundra south of the base, one to 5 at a place and frequently 2 or 3 together. The birds flew about but were generally on the snow. Likely they came to feed on lemmings, either ones they were able to capture or others that are left dead by the snowy owl. Once Frank Pitelka and I saw an owl repeatedly flying at a gull as the two birds and another gull moved in circular flight as high as 50' or 75' above ground. The gulls left the area after the owl settled near the place where it had been. Later the owl followed to where the gulls had gone. When the birds met there was a commotion and the owl again maneuvered after a gull among 3 in flight, the gull pursued principally had a dark object, almost certainly a large lemming, in its bill. After about two turns it made off and the owl

Larus hyperboreas

May 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
left the group of gulls as they moved off. Thus we see a persistent intolerance of gulls by the owl, which may actively initiate the fray. The discord appears to stem from a competition between the two species for the lemming. It is noted that the snowy owl often kills lemmings that for one reason or another it does not eat. These discarded, misplaced, or lost dead lemmings may serve as an important food for the gulls. That gulls catch live lemmings is likely for we frequently found their tracks today at open lemming burrows in the snow, and, particularly, where the snow had receded in patches revealing the extensive and prominent burrows and feeding areas of the lemmings.

May 30 Several gulls frequently over the base, sometimes calling from low cloud formations and out of sight.

June 1 Fewer gulls than usual over the base, and only 3 seen on the open tundra; none at Nuwuk. The 3 seen were about 1½ miles S. of the base, standing or walking about on the snow, 2 adults and 1 immature. Farther inland to the south, going about 5 miles, we saw not even fresh tracks.

Larus hyperboreas

June 2 Point Barrow, Alaska
Occasional birds were the only ones seen flying over the base and ice today. None seen in the ridge study area this morning and only 3 this afternoon south of the base on the open tundra.

June 3 None on tundra in ridge area, but several about the base, 7 in one group.

June 4. None on the tundra at all today, a few about the base area.

June 7 In midafternoon about 20 were loafing about on the ice of Elson Lagoon with several pomarine jaegers, far from shore.

June 8 None seen in area Britton wanigan to Akrowik Lake in a full day in the field.

June 10 No record of the species in past 3 days.

June 12 Two at 10:15 a.m. and 10 at 11:25 a.m. over the drum area.

June 13 Three over base today.

June 14 Two over the drum area today; none seen on trip to central marsh and beach ridge.

June 15 Seven in late afternoon among the ponds at the gravel spit flats; none there in early afternoon. The birds were quiet and readily allowed approach within gun-shot range. However I collected none. Two swam about in a pond while the others loafed about.

Larus hyperboreas

June 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
Nest with 2 eggs on 10'-long moss-covered island in 3' deep pond on route to Barrow #3. No other gulls in the vicinity.

June 21 One crossed L.E. to N.W. from Elson Lagoon.

June 22 Two or 3 over salt lagoon in early afternoon.

June 24 Three crossing L.E. to N.W. this afternoon and 9 others up the beach (N.) flying a parallel course.

June 29 Five crossed plot L.E., to N.W., near north end.

July 4 Group of 7 or 8 resting, down on sand, of beach of slough that feeds salt water lagoon.

July 7 About 200 gathered on ice floes feeding at base garbage dump which today was disintegrating and moving N.E. with the ice.

July 11 Groups of 2 and 3 off plot L.E., working north.

July 13 Today and yesterday about 40 at dump to S. of base. The offshore dump has completely moved off with the ice.

July 15 About 80 resting at drum stacks in late a.m.

July 16 About 200 at the dump. S. of camp.

July 19 At the sand spit, Doctor Island, and on Deadman's Island there were small groups of these gulls. I saw perhaps 50 this afternoon, principally on the islands.

July 26 Single individual on beach of fresh water lake this afternoon. No large flocks in the vicinity at this time, but there are

Larus hyperboreas

July 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
a few birds and small groups seen each day.

July 31 About 65 in leisurely loose flock flying west over central marsh, apparently from Brant Point area, at 8 a.m.

Aug. 1 Five over drum area; possibly others at dump.

Aug. 4 Occasional birds fly over camp, daily calling in vicinity of dump along salt lagoon.

Aug. 11 About 200 at dump area.

Jomiah
1953

Xema sabini

June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
One at Britton wanigan in late afternoon, the first of the season. It flew about over the melting snow cover and lit at a wet place among the high center polygons.

June 12 One flying east down Wohlschlag slough.

June 15 One at Nuwuk, flying alone.

June 19 Two over Central marsh this afternoon were flying leisurely west.

July 7 About 10 seen at Nuwuk, generally following beach N.W. from Eluitkak Pass, singly or two together. Two fed singly along the beach.

July 19 It is obvious now that these birds are actually nesting on Deadman's Island. However, in a 45 minute stay there today I was unable to find any young. At one place as I hurried up the beach gulls and Arctic terns followed, screaming, but keeping some distance above or behind. Among the plentiful driftwood here is apparently where the nests are. Charles Horvath and A. Fehlman took pictures here about 10 days ago and Fehlman has seen two kinds of young, evidently this gull and the terns. There were approximately 30 on the island, several of which were immature birds. I collected one of these.

Aug. 9 One between Village and base, just out over ice and water; another on beach.

Jonich
1953

Rhodostethia rosea

June 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

At 4 p.m. two non-breeding males were foraging and loafing in the thawed edge of the fresh water lake along I.H.C.S. road. I shot one and Frank Pitelka the other. One skinned and the other kept as a skeleton. This is the first record for this season and also for the three years of this investigation

Jonich
1953

Sterna paradisaea

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
One flying along the gravel spit, first record for this year.

June 15 One at gravel spit, flying alone.

June 16 On lakes on route to Barrow #3 several groups and singles, about 25 in all.

July 7 Continuous flight of these birds, scattered and feeding from the air, N.W. along the spit from Elitkah Pass to Nuwuk. We saw perhaps 25 to 40 through the afternoon.

July 19 Terns are nesting upon Deadman's Island. In a 45-minute survey of the length of the island this afternoon I found one chick on a grassy mound near the middle of the island. This mound is about 6' wide, 12' long, and 4' high, covered with a stand of Elymus mollis that seems to keep the mound from washing away when the sea breaks over the land in storms. There are apparently many nests among the driftwood that is littered over island and they seem to be localized in two areas. I saw perhaps 40 to 50 terns. There were six nests on the mound where I found the chick but there were no traces of eggs. On Doctor Island there were two terns, presumably a pair; they hovered, screaming, on the wind and I found 2 newly hatched chicks here running about in the driftwood. I searched

Sterna paradisea

July 19 Point Barrow, Alaska
this island but found no other nests. Absence of other adults seemed to indicate that only the single pair was breeding there. What apparently was the nest was a shallow depression in the sand but I could not be sure of this.

July 26 Dead bird on lagoon beach beyond the airport.

Aug. 7 One in flight over base.

Aug. 11 One in flight near Britton Manor.

Jomich
1953

Uria lomvia

June 27 Point Barrow, Alaska

A dead ♀ with minute oöcytes found on beach at L. E. where it had evidently lain for some time. The body was emaciated. A broken left wingtip had partly healed but possibly left the bird unable to fly or secure sufficient nourishment.

July 28 At Birnik I saw an occasional few birds moving with eider flocks. There were 8 or 10 in all in an hour's observation. Four left an eider flock and lit on the lagoon.

Zonich
1953

Nyctea scandiaca

May 17 Point Barrow, Alaska - Several times between 5:30 and 6 a.m. I heard owl-like calls to the S.W. of the base, in series of 2 to several, the sounds about 1 second apart. There are no owls at present near the base but one is reported a few miles out on the road to a gas well to the south.

May 20 At 1:40 pm. one flushed from tundra 1/4 mile S. of permafrost installations, some 100 yards ahead of me. It flew out over the lagoon toward Barrow Village, lit on the snow-covered ice, and perched there. It was still present more than 15 minutes later, at the same spot.

May 21 Craig saw an owl near the permafrost installations today. Fresh pellet on snow beside broken rolled up weasel track on route to Old Point Barrow. Another pellet, fresh, on snow at old eskimo dwelling on the point.

May 23 One flew up from a snowbank thrust up by a snow-plow excavating the gas well road, 1/4 mi. beyond the end of the RACS beverage antenna. This was at about 3 p.m. as we passed in a weasel. This owl seems not to perch high above ground

Jonich
1953

Nyctea scandiaca

May 24 Point Barrow, Alaska- At 4:10 pm on the beach ridge a brown plumaged bird was making short flights across the ~~ground~~ snow, evidently hunting lemmings. Its manner was to hop 4' or 5' or 10' with aid of the wings. A white owl then came over the ridge at an angle and lit on the snow some 50' from the first owl. It carried a dark object, likely a lemming, in its bill, and the brown owl flew immediately to it, perching behind it. The white owl stood with its wings raised and leaning forward for about a minute. Then it turned to one side, maintaining the raised wing attitude and still clutching the lemming. The brown owl stood quietly. This apparently was a courtship display. At about 3 p.m. a white owl flew across the marsh area, and across a ridge toward Elson Lagoon, carrying a dark object in its talons. After the owl was lost to sight the dark body of the prey was still visible on the snowy background. ~~At 5:30 pm. a brown bird perched on top of a 25' steel mast just south of the~~

Nyctea scandiaca

May 27 Point Barrow, Alaska - One at drum stacks at 8:30 a.m., just in off the salt water ~~lagoon~~ lake.

May 28 About 5 seen this afternoon on a trip to tundra study areas. One white bird stood on the snow for at least a minute with wings rigidly upraised. When a brownish owl lit near it the white one did not move. This may be a pair, and the same birds seen a few days ago.

May 29 In the area about 3 to 5 miles south of the base about 3 snowy owls seen this afternoon. They tended to be in the vicinity of disturbed ground and where the topography was more irregular, better exposing the lemmings because of patches bare of snow, and because of more places to perch on ground a ~~few~~ few feet above the surroundings. Glaucous gull-owl relationships are discussed under that species. One white, or two white birds were seen; another was gray, and a third was quite dark.

May 31 One several times was seen a bird traps that contained longspurs, in the drum area. At 7:15 pm. a nearly white owl lit near a

Nyctea scandiaca

May 31 Point Barrow, Alaska
trap (3) that was by the weather station. I could not see what the owl was doing for a snow drift ~~intervened~~ blocked the view. After a few minutes a much barred second owl lit some 30' from the first on a slightly raised bare spot. After looking about it ran slowly toward the other owl with a labored gait in which the shoulders and folded wings moved stiffly from side to side at each step. That these birds have repeatedly bathered the traps may mean that they have just discovered the traps, or that lemmings may be more difficult to catch on cold days such as these last two have been.

June 1 Three seen this afternoon in area about 3 miles S. of base. A ♂ flew up from the snow, and then a ♀ left a mound some 100 yards away. There was located a nest with 6 eggs. The mound was a snow free oval about 10' long and 5' wide, perhaps 18" high above the snow. Nest a shallow dish scooped in the top part, about 6" below the highest point, a kind of ridge that would give some protection from the N.E. wind. The ♀ stayed off about 150 yards as we examined and photographed.

Nyctea scandiaca

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
the nest. She moved several times and returned to the nest as soon as we drove off in the weasel. One pellet found in the areawas of a brown lemming that had been disgorged before digestion for the head was intact as was much of the body.

June 2 ♀ vacated nest as we drove up about 300' away in late afternoon. ♂ flew near, not quite overhead a couple of times, and several sounds were uttered.

June 3 ♂ and ♀ at Wohlschlag Slough, possibly with nest at north side near end of Ridge. The ♀ was about 250 yards off, watching across the slough as we searched on the north side for the nest. Several times I saw this bird raise her tail to about 45° above the horizontal and then lower it after a few seconds, all the while watching directly toward us. She remained there as we left the area.

June 4 One at Britton wanigan in early afternoon. One at drainage slough between village and base at 4 p.m., about 3 miles inland. The ♀ on nest remained as we stopped some 150 yards ~~few shrs~~ off and walked about, but she watched us steadily.

June 5 One in early morning in the drum area; it allowed approach to 50 yards before flying.

Nyctea scandiaca

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
Ten individuals, and possibly 12 or more, at one time seen from Nuwuk in midafternoon. The owls were perched about, generally near the beach. Later two were over the ice and one settled upon it, about 100 yards out. It appears that these owls have been following the land northward and have concentrated at the point. Lemmings are abundant there, but not so numerous and with more cover than on the open tundra

June 8 4 on nest across gully from far end of AACS beverage line. No owls of this species from there to Ikrowik Lake. About 10 p.m. I saw two along the beach near the tank farm.

June 11 At 7:40 p.m. two between base and Britton wanigan, another near magnetic observatory.

June 13 One on beach at L-E and one at Wohlschlag slough yesterday. This morning 3 at once in Drum area.

June 14 I noted several owls in the drum area this morning. At 9:15 I climbed onto a drum stack and counted 18 owls in the surrounding country to east and south. More than half were in the area where junk and drums are littered about, as if to get some protection from the wind. The farthest individual was about ½ mile away. As I had earlier worked out toward the drum stacks occasional birds flew about, generally in

Nyctea scandiaca

June 14 Point Barrow, Alaska
short retreats, but the birds were mostly at rest on the ground. None were on high perches, but a few were on high polygons or snow banks. The moderate east wind and overcast continued all day. At 4 p.m. I counted 14 birds in the area, without climbing to an observation post. The birds had generally moved in closer, with none on the open tundra except where a high polygon or earth mound offered protection from the wind. At one such mound beside the A.A.C.S. road 3 owls were together, only 2 or 3' apart. ~~beh~~

June 15 At Nuwuk at 2 p.m. I counted 24 snowy owls from one location on the high ground. Six or 8 were seen on the spit along the route to Nuwuk. The birds occasionally flew about in hunting but mostly they were perched here and there, often at leeward side of objects that would protect them from the wind. Three were out on the open ice and two perched on prominent blocks of ice. As we walked about the birds moved out of the way and seldom allowed us within gunshot range.

June 16 On trip to Barrow #3 four nests found, two about 1/2 to 3/4 mile apart. Clutch size 8, 7, 7, 4. Other owls, spaced out over the

Nyctea scandiaca

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska
tundra were seen along the route where there were small high polygons. At Ikrowik Lake there were 5 birds, at least in part non-breeding birds that seemed to be attracted to the shelter of the lake banks. At another lake 3 birds were seen.

June 17 This afternoon, a mild day, revealed only 2 snowy owls in the drum area.

June 21 None in drum area or on beach ridge yesterday. One today on beach mounds at L. E.

June 22 Five in early afternoon at S. end of drum area and along salt lagoon, generally in retreat from drifting mist and west wind. This morning I visited the nest across the gully from Vothi Station. The ♀ was on and she flew off about 100 yards where she sat broadside on the tundra and watched me. The nest contained one chick that was about 4" long as it sprawled head forward and too weak apparently to sit, possibly only a day or two old. White down covered the chick. The nest ~~cup~~ bowl was freshly scratched. I saw one egg-shell half about 10' away at the base of the mound but saw no trace of other eggs. The ♂ perched on a mound at Vothi Station. Snow has receded, revealing the ruggeness

Nyctea scandiaca

June 22 Point Barrow, Alaska
of this nest site, that was previously hidden. High polygons dot the area that slopes into the main gully and a branch passes beside the polygon on which the nest is located.

June 24 Nine along lagoon beach this afternoon at plot L.E., mostly near the S. end. The owls were at rest, largely among the rough high polygons out of the gentle west wind, one was at the lee side of a 50 gal. drum. Twice when individual owls flew because I approached in census work pomarine jaegers attacked them, from a nearby territory. The jaegers ignored the owls upon the ground. The attacks were not prolonged as are those of a short-eared owls by jaegers.

June 26 Nest #3, found at ~~East~~ South side of central marsh among rugged high polygon belt of ridge slope. ♀ brooding, ♂ on perch, a mound about 300' toward marsh. Nest contained 5 owlets and 4 eggs. Lemmings were banked high on north side of nest in half circle and few around to south, a complete circle of lemmings altogether, with 3 or 4 scattered as far ~~at~~ as 2' to south on ground about level with nest, and one in nest among eggs and chicks. Few of the 71 dead mice were torn. Seven additional ones had head or head and foreparts

Nyctea scandiaca

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
eaten. We removed all the lemmings except these parts, and weighed and determined sex of each. Then marking 21 by breaking a hind leg of each one we replaced these at the nest edge. Young owls were weighed and returned to the nest. Adults did not fly overhead.

June 27 One on beach at plot L.E. This morning I visited nest #1 near Vathi's station and confirmed what I had noticed several days ago, that the nest contains one chick. The other eggs have vanished but one half shell of a hatched egg is near the base of the mound.

June 28 Visited nest #2 with Pitelka and Thompson. Five warm eggs in nest, one cold one about a foot away, as if ~~but~~ kicked there on a sudden leaving. ♀ left nest as we approached. Both adults in the vicinity, perched on mounds but not interfering with our examination of the nest.

July 4 Two in drum area in late morning.

July 5 One on beach at plot L.E.

July 7 One at Nuwuk. I gathered a 10-lb. bag full of pellets from mounds and ruins there.

July 8 At Nest #2 eggs intact, none hatched, ♀ sitting.

July 10 White one, evidently ♂ adult, on beach at plot L.E.

July 12 One at Nuwuk, evidently a ♂.

July 13 Nest #2 abandoned, eggs cold, one of them with a small puncture; birds not in the area.

Nyctea scandiaca

July 13 Point Barrow, Alaska
Chick at nest #1 reported by Dan Thompson to be in good condition.

July 15 Two adults in drum stack area today. At nest #3 we found 5 owlets able to waddle or walk from the nest. ~~Three~~ were out of the nest and off the mound when we came near and two others presently left the nest. The larger birds were able to walk well, and two hopped or leaped along using the wings and tail to maintain balance and as if to help progress. Wings were feathering with flight feathers as long as 2" to 4". However, the birds were easily caught and generally squatted on the ground without attempting escape after moving off 20' to 50'. When placed on the ground they did not always wander off. The birds did not struggle when held, their only resistance being bill snapping when first picked up or closely approached. They did not attempt to use the claws. One uttered a kind of chirp. The ♀ was at the nest as we approached across the marsh. She flew off and perched about 200' away. The ♂ ~~at~~ sat on another mound about 400' away and neither made any aggressive moves. Young all were weighed.

Nyctea scandiaca

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
The nest mound is worn and trampled with many small pellets about it. There were only 2 or 3 dead lemmings about

July 16 Seven seen between Britton Manor and Nest #1 where the adults perched incautiously across the gully and allowed approach as close as 30' to 50'. The single chick is doing well. It has moved about 200' from the nest among the high polygons.

July 19 None at Nunaek.

July 21 Howard Hind of the carpenter shop and party discovered nest #3 on July 19. They shot the ♀ and brought in 5 young - all of the brood that they saw. Today we accepted 3 of the birds, two be ~~xx~~ skinned, one kept alive, and one taken to Umiat by Paul Baldwin. The 5th owl was given to some other person unknown to us. These 5 are apparently the younger of the 8.

July 22 At nest #3 there was no sign of owls except that one, apparently the youngest lay dead about 100' away. The owlet seemed to have died of exposure and starvation. Possibly, then, two of the young have survived and have walked from the area still accompanied and fed by the ♂. Brewer, Thompson and I searched the area for more than an hour.

Nyctea scandiaca

July 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
About 7 scattered between Britton Manor and ½ mile south.

July 27 One in drum area. Yesterday a young owl was delivered to the lab., said to have been found walking down a street of the base. The owl is well feathered out about wings and tail and in good condition. It is better developed and stronger than the one already caged. Checking with Howard Hind I find it is not one of the 5 he took from near nest #3.

July 29 No birds, adult or young, in vicinity of nest #1, as if the successful juvenal has been able to get about well and has left the area, perhaps, however, not in flight.

Aug. 8 Three among high polygons 1 mile W. of Vothi Station. No nest here.

Jonich
1953

Asio Flammeus

May 24 Point Barrow, Alaska - At 5:30 p.m. one was perched on top of a 25' steel mast just south of the buildings toward the edge of the salt water lagoon. This is the first I have seen. When I came near to tend bird traps the owl flew about 200' to a second mast that is about 15' tall.

May 25 At 7:30 a.m. one was perched on each of the two masts. Pete Sovalik said he saw a different brown owl along the village road, not a snowy owl, as he road to work this morning. The bird was at the supply piles just outside the base and could ~~to~~ have been one of the two I saw earlier. At 3:20 p.m. one on snow at the permafrost wanigan, evidently hunting lemmings. This or another at the drum stacks at 5 p.m.

May 26 One hunting near the drum stacks at 8 a.m. A few minutes later it came in off the lagoon and lit on the snow or on some low object near the village road. The owl carried some small prey, likely a lemming. At 2:15 p.m. one flew up ahead of me among the drum stacks and on a little prominence clear of snow there I found the fresh

Asio Flammeus

May 26 Point Barrow, Alaska - remains of an adult lemming (Lemmus). This included the head which was not skinned, and the intestinal tract which was essentially intact. Later about 300' away I found a second remains, with head and the intestines, on another prominence. This appeared to be about a day old. The short-eared owl may characteristically feed on the brown lemming in this manner.

June 1 One at Nuwuk, this or another at Berrik, and one about 4 mi. S. of base. Dan Thompson reported one in the drum area.

June 2 One at east side of drum area at 10 a.m., perched on roadside snowbank.

June 4 This afternoon on a trip to Barrow Village and then across the back country and to the base we saw 6 or 8 short-eared owls. They were more wary than on other days this week, none allowing itself within gun-shot range. On 3 occasions two birds were loosely associated in flight movement over the tunda. The bird is obviously present because of the abundance of lemmings. There was no definite evidence that any of the birds were nesting.

Asio flammeus

June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
There is much variation in the manner of flight of the short-ear. At times the wing-stroke is especially deep and the body seems to move up and down. At other times the body remains steady and the stroke is not so deep. Sometimes the bird sails. The deep stroke is used in more powerful flight, as in gaining speed and altitude.

June 5 One over the drum area this afternoon.

June 6 When two were over the drum area in the early afternoon I was attracted to them by a sudden clapping of wings, 3 or 4 strokes in rapid succession. Looking up I saw the two birds circling and moving away from one another. They continued to fly about, drifting out over the tundra.

June 7 Two or 3 seen on trip to Nuwuk; none there.

June 8 Two this morning along beverage line S. of Britton-wanigan. Along this route and to Ikpikpuk Lake this afternoon I saw 6 or 8 short-ears. When one pair was flying about, one bird suddenly clapped its wingtips together in a rapid irregular vibrant <u>clappety-clap</u>, perhaps 4 strokes given, when the wings were at the bottom of a deep flight stroke. The birds perch here and there on the tundra and seem to be settling to nest.

Asio flammeus

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
Going up to Birnik and a little beyond tonight I saw 5 individuals, mostly about the supply area, where two females were collected. Both were nearing time of egg-laying for one had oocytes (largest one) 12 mm, and the other bird 5 mm. The first of these two was a young owl and the second an old one, heavier and with hard bones. The nasal septum could not be pierced by a needle ~~to~~ held in the fingers; a sharp probe had to be used. In the young bird the septum was readily pierced with a needle.

June 10 None seen this morning on trip to central marsh.

June 12 Three over drum stacks, and later one on the ground in drum area. Birds now seem to be generally territorial. Two nests found, one east of L-W and one in between L.E. and beach.

N9
N6

June 14 New nest with 3 eggs discovered on beach ridge. Like the other it is in the relatively rough edge toward the marsh, on the highest ground, but locally speaking not at the peak, but beside a shallow pass in the ridge.

Nest 10

June 15 None at Nuwuk or along the gravel spit, suggesting that the birds have moved off the beach to nest and that the non-breeding group will be small if any are in this category. A high percentage of nesting is indicated by the several nests found.

Asio Flammeus

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska

One nest found on trip to Barrow #3, 1 egg. The site was typical in that it was on well-drained ground that had sparse coarse grass upon it. At first we saw the ♂ crouched and it flushed as we stopped 75' away. The ♀ stayed on the nest only 100' from the weasel while we searched near where the ♂ had been. Only when we returned to the vehicle did the ♀ fly off, revealing her nest.

June 18 Where a short-eared owl was flushed in L.E. there lay the head and intestinal tract of a brown lemming, freshly abandoned.

June 19 Two new nests in 88 acre plot, with 6 and 3 eggs. In each case the ♀ was only thinly concealed and allowed approach to about 50' before flying off.

June 21 When we passed within about 200' and 300' of two known nests today, by weasel, an owl flew up from near the weasel in each case. Both owls were noticeably paler and in sudden rising looked black and white from underneath. These apparently were the males belonging to the nests. I have not seen any but dull brownish birds flush from nests, which may indicate that the ♀ is the only one of the pair that does the incubation.

Asio flammeus

June 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

I have noticed in flushing short-eared owls, for about the past week the birds have allowed much closer approach, often 30' to 15', compared with 50' or 100' before this period. This coincides with completion of the clutches and settling into the routine of incubation.

June 24 New nest about 160 yds. N. of N.E. corner L.E. 100' from beach, in typical location, well drained low polygons - with coarse grass on summit of one selected for nest. Bird allowed approach within 12' and did not flush when pintail flushed from nest measured distance of 6' away. Owl with 7 eggs, voided in nest as she took off. ♂ not seen, but ♂ of nest near S.E. corner of plot L.E. was about 300' off, among high polygons. Jaegers attached when he flushed.

June 27 Male of nest by new pass seen across the road, about 100' from nest when we passed by today. ♀ on nest.

June 29 Eggs are disappearing from nest near S. end of plot L.E. Maximum number of 8 seen on June 21, 6 on June 27, and 5 today. No disturbance about nest and ♀ incubating quietly. New nest along inlet about 1/2 mile S. of plot L.E., 7 eggs, ♀ on nest, ♂ 100' away. Nest east of L.W., on route to L.E. destroyed, evidently by man. The ♀ lay dead 10' away, eggs were gone.

Asio flammeus

June 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
and marker moved up 3' from nest.

July 1 Second of two nests in central marsh plot broken up. No direct evidence at first one where 2 eggs remain. At second 3 eggs remain, one partly eaten, one with 4 nicks and small holes which are evidently the result of two bird pecks in sequence, and 3rd egg intact. Nesting pomarine jaegers are suspected.

July 5 New nest, just N. of plot L. E. and 100' from a brant nest, 6 eggs, ♀ incubating.

July 8 Bill Mayer reported a new nest, on ridge flank S. of Central Marsh lakes. 7 eggs, 1 pipped, ♀ on nest. Nest marked with 3' stick.

July 9. New nest in Central Marsh S.E. of lakes, 5 eggs, 1 pipped, 1 newly hatched chick.

July 10 Nest at New Pass deserted with 2 chicks dead and 5 eggs, one of these pipped, all fertile

July 12 Nest on ridge just south of I.T.A.C.S. beverage line with 4 chicks and 3 eggs.

July 13 Nest near inlet between snowy owl nest #2 and plot L. E. with one chick and one egg. The chick had the skin torn over the back of the head and had a bad bite on the left leg. ♀ on nest and no evidence of what caused the damage.

July 15 At L. E. nest near N.E. corner abandoned, all 6 eggs fertile and with advanced embryos. Nest east of this one, near beach, abandoned shortly

Asio flammeus

July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska

N17

after my last visit now has 2 dead chicks and 4 fertile eggs with advanced embryos. Nest reported July 8 by Bill Maher abandoned, with one egg punctured and not pipped as he reported. Six eggs were fertile with well-formed embryos and a 7th was extra large, malformed and thin shelled. I saw no short-eared owls today. Wholesale abandonment of nests, just as the chicks are hatching or are about to hatch seems to me to be due to other factors than human interferance, although this seems to be the final element in several cases. It may be that the abundance of jaegers and the unseasonable cold and overcast have turned this area into one which this owl is not equipped to meet.

July 20 Deserted nest near S.E. corner of plot L.E. has 4 fertile eggs and one infertile egg. Deserted nest on Beach Ridge between two antennae has 5 eggs, 1 infertile egg, 1 embryo dead before the desertion, and 3 well developed embryos apparently alive at time of desertion.

July 22 Nest about 250 yds. S. of snowy owl nest #3 has four downy young and one infertile egg. Three weanling lemmings lay at the edge of the nest. Site on broad high polygon among tufts of coarse grass (Arctagrostis ?) that is now growing.

Asio flammeus

July 24 Point Barrow, Alaska
An adult on beach ridge at L.W.; no active nest known near here

July 28 Nest just S. of A.A.C.S. antenna on Beach Ridge empty except for one egg that had a well-developed embryo and one infertile. I found one young about 175' away among the hummocks, unable to fly but with wing and tail feathers in C stage. An adult flew up 150' farther away, from LVT tracks. As I searched over the area at one time 2 adults flew about, 400'-500' in the air at times in leisurely flight and hanging on the wind. This was higher than any flight I have previously seen, even when the birds were pressed by jaegers. This time one bird twice flew at a jaeger passing through.

July 29 For the first time today I found the nest along the gas well road between Britton Manor and Vath's Station. ♀ on nest which contained one young in early pin feather stage and one egg. ♂ about 200' away. Across the inlet and about 200 yards away, on the sod that is sloughing because of wave action, but stabilized by the same coarse grass that this owl nests in, I found a new nest. I contains 3 young, 2 about

Asio flammeus

July 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
to leave, judging by size of the one caught yesterday on the beach ridge. The smallest is feathering out well, having the buffy and blackish color prominent. ♀ on nest, possibly shading the young which certainly did not need warmth today. ♂ about 150' away. There were no lemmings here. The previous nest had 6 juveniles about it and one adult which was headless and freshly partly eaten. On L.W. I found a nest with 4 young and ~~2 eggs~~ 1 egg, largest young still yellowish-pink and with pin feathers forming on back. ♀ was on nest, ♂ seen nearby on July 26 but nest not known at that time.

July 30 This afternoon with Thompson I checked nests in the Central Marsh and Wohlschlag Sloughareas, finding two I did not know about before and examining three previously seen. Between the pond beside the slough (where the red-throat loons nest) and snowy owl nest #2 we found a new nest among the polygons. The ♀ was brooding 2 young 4' from the nest beside the nest polygon, a low one about 10' across and 18" high. The smallest young was in the 4 pinfeather stage. The second was well feathered with down and some feathers. Five others rested among the polygons 20' to 100'

Asio Flammeus

July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska

from the nest. This is the most successful brood I have encountered. There were no eggs in the nest, indicating possibly 100% fledging of the clutch. The previously known nest, about 400' away, was deserted; the single injured chick seen some days ago would have left the nest by now if it has lived.

N18

A marked nest (Pitelka?) I had not seen before, near forks of drainage into the slough from central marsh (or at edge of slough) was deserted, but appeared to have had young raised in it. Across the slough from snowy owl nest #2 the nest previously seen by Pitelka + Thompson was deserted. One infertile egg remained.

N21

N27

Two young among the polygons about 40' and 75' away were downy and with flight feathers developed fairly well. These as there this size offered scarcely any resistance and did not move off when approached. The birds actually seem quite weak. The early dispersal apparently contributes to survival.

N28

In a pocket of the S.E. part of the marsh I found a deserted nest among the high polygons of a low ridge of these formations may have had young raised in it. The picture of short-eared owl reproduction seems now to be more favorable with inclusion of these

Asio Flammeus

July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska
more remote and less frequently visited or newly found nests.

Aug. 8 Nest found between end of beach ridge and snowy owl nest #2; not previously known. It was in typical situation on grassy polygon. This makes 3 nests between ridge and slough. Nest with 6 owlets, the smallest 20' from nest, others singly with 2 together up to 200' from nest. One flew about 15' but was caught. A 7th bird well feathered had been partly eaten by some unknown agent. Finding this nest with large brood successfully quitting it is further evidence that each of human interference is a factor in nest success. On Plot L.W. nest still operating with 5 young, largest not ready to leave.

Aug 9 No short-eared owl nests found in polygon country between Village and Vathis Station.

Asio Flammeus

Point Barrow, Alaska

	Owl Nest Location	Associated Nests
July 18	New Pass on Beach Ridge	Pintail 28' away
	July 28 - Pintail Nest 160' away	- Pintail 58' away
	Beach Ridge between Antennae	None
July 20	Between L.E. + L.W.	Black Brant - 12'
	N. end of plot L.E.	Black Brant - 110'
	N. end of plot L.E.	Pintail - 6'
	Near E. side L.E.	Pintail - 8'
		Black Brant - 110'
July 22	Edge of Marsh near S.O. #3	None
	250 yds. S. of Snowy Owl #3	None
July 23	Beach Ridge S. of Antenna	None
July 29	W. shore salt lagoon Inlet	None
	E. shore salt lagoon Inlet	None
July 30	Near Wohlschlag Slough	None
	Near Wohlschalag Slough	None
	S. shore Wohlschlag Slough	Pintail - 80'
	S. edge Central Marsh	Pintail - 180'
Aug. 8	Between end of Beach Ridge and Owl (Snowy) Nest #2	None

Tomich
1953

Otocoris alpestris

June 11 Point Barrow, Alaska
One in drum area in late afternoon.
June 12 One in drum area in late morning, same location.

Jomich
1953

Riparia riparia

July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska

It was a warm evening and a bank swallow appeared about 7 p.m. over the drum area. It fed for several minutes. Not fully satisfied with the identification I shot the bird and found it to be a young one, apparently a young of the year. Inside the mouth was an orange yellow.

Jonick
1953

Oenanthe oenanthe

May 23 Point Barrow, Alaska - One was found dead 1/2 mile out on the ice from the base and brought in by an eskimo. Dr. Wiggins left it with me as he did not have time to prepare it. The bird was thawed and in poor shape. Although plumage is that of a male I was unable to confirm this.

May 28 In early afternoon I detected one foraging at snow free patches near the * N.W. end of the beach ridge. As we came up in the weasel about 100 yards off I saw the bird making robin-like lunges in its foraging. Pitelka saw the bird dip its tail several times in pipit fashion. After considerable stalking he was able to collect it. It made no attempt to retreat from the stretch of snow-free patches, but flew from one to another.

June 1 One on beach ridge in midmorning, foraging alone.

Jonsich
1953

Hylocichla minima

June 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
One foraging quietly alone at Brittan wanigan at 10:30 p.m.

June 7 One at 7:30 p.m. in drum area. When disturbed it flew twice before us, and then flew up and lit on a 20' power pole crossarm.

Hylocichla minima
is now
Catharus minimus
per AOU 1998

Jonich
1953

Turdus migratorius

May 25 Point Barrow, Alaska - One at 3:20 p.m. feeding on a bare spot of earth just east of the supply piles. The bird was watchful toward me 100' away as I repaired a bird trap. When I rose it flew slowly around for 60', and then came back to another bare spot 20' from the first. It was reluctant to fly off and it was apparently not attracted to the ridges and drifts of snow over which it had flown when disturbed. The bird was silent. On May 16 robins were abundant at Fairbanks and called and sang frequently.

May 26 One at 7:20 a.m., and at 10 a.m., 2, in the drum area where one was seen yesterday. Both foraged independently on patches free of snow, and again were hesitant about leaving these places or landing in the snow when disturbed. Both were silent except for a feeble <u>hut-hut-hut</u> call by one as it flew off as I came to a bird trap nearby. Two robins repeatedly seen through the day in the area adjacent to the base, as described above.

May 27 Two this afternoon in same area as before, but by 7 p.m. the birds were not to be found. Foraging on bare spots continues.

Jomich
1953

Turdus migratorius

June 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
One foraging in drum area at 7:30 a.m.

Jonich
1953

Motacilla flava

Aug. 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
Paul Hurd reported one near the Adm. Bldg. this afternoon, on ground and on a wire.

Jonich
1953

Anthus spinoletta

May 19 Point Barrow, Alaska - At 3:10 p.m. one foraging on a snow-free mound behind the base, adjacent to a garage. The bird flew over a small Inuiset when I came up 100' away. At 3:35 it was back on the mound foraging among the tufts of grass and on bare gravel. The bird would characteristically hurry from place to place and by running, not hopping. It's manner was one of agility and maneuverability. The body tended to remain horizontal with the tail stretched out behind. A snow bunting appeared at a small exposed grassy place about 20' away and foraged quietly. The more active went to the place 2 or 3 times and there was no conflict. However, after about 3 minutes the bunting suddenly flew at the and a chase ensued, erratically near the ground, up about 20' and then the bunting flew off high above the buildings and disappeared over the Barrow Village road. Both birds were on the ground just before, foraging a few feet apart. The continued out along the trapline and lit

Anthus spinoletta

May 19 Point Barrow, Alaska - about 150' away. Then it moved S.W. along the back of the base, foraging here and there on exposed ground.

May 20 This bird or another at 3:15 p.m. was feeding with several each of snow buntings and longspurs near the supply piles where the Village Road leaves the base. When I fired at longspurs this bird flew alone about 100' to a stack of heavy timbers and perched, frozen, about 10' above ground on a flat surface. I came up 30' away before it flew. Having no light shot I did not attempt to collect the bird. At 6:15 p.m. I saw this or another about 200 yards S.E. in the open scraped area. A little later I shot one where the village road leaves the base and about 20 minutes later another was at the same place (#2501).

May 21 One in morning at Village Road and another south of base along bird trap line. These birds maintain their isolation from each other though at times they may associate, as they do with other kinds of foraging birds. I have heard no sounds from them.

Anthus spinoletta

May 29 Point Barrow, Alaska
One foraging alone on base in snow-free area where this species was first seen this year.

Aug. 6 One on roof of A.R.L., first appearance of the bird since May.

Aug. 7 Three this morning in back of lab. on wires, buildings, and boxes, and feeding on the gravel.

Tomich
1953

Dendroica coronata

May 20 Point Barrow, Alaska - As Thompson and I were leaving the mess hall at lunch hour one was squatted in the gravel street 60' away. Presently after hopping about it flew off over a Quonset hut and we were unable to find it. Late in the afternoon the pilot reported the bird again near the mess hall, inside a steam valve box which had the cover partly slid back. I went over at 5:30 p.m. and did not see the bird in the box. Suddenly it appeared, lit 10' from me, and hopped about not very energetically and with the plumage greatly fluffed. I stepped back and the bird entered the box to rest on a sill 8" from the top (box 4' square and 3' deep). After a few seconds it came out and forraged on the gravel and about a light accumulation of trash about the messhall door. The bird was in bright plumage with white throat and yellow spots very fresh looking.

May 21 I did not see the warbler about the base today but this evening I found it dead on the ledge inside the steam valve

Jonich
1953

Dendroica coronata

May 21 Point Barrow, Alaska - box. There it had apparently sought refuge and died of exposure and starvation (#2502). The bird was noticeably dehydrated, weighing only 7.5gm. Some of this may have occurred after death, in the warm valve box.

Jonich
1953

Spizella arborea

June 1 Point Barrow, Alaska
One this morning seen at Nuwuk where it foraged among the eskimo ruins.

June 3 One in drum area in late morning.

June 4 One trapped at trap 2, banded, and released.

June 6 One banded bird caught, singing bird in the drum area gave repeated songs about 2 p.m. Pitelka has heard singing on previous days.

Jonich
1953

Passerella iliaca

May 25 Point Barrow, Alaska - One was trapped at the animal house, the first I have seen this year. Banded and released.

May 26 Banded fox sparrow seen near animal house at 7:25 a.m., and twice again in the day.

May 28 Banded bird taken in trap and collected by Pitelka.

May 29 A new bird appeared this morning near the animal house, was trapped this afternoon, and banded. Frank Pitelka and I had just removed several longspurs from a trap. These birds had been there most of the afternoon and the traps in that area each contained two to a dozen longspurs essentially all day because of the readiness of this abundant species to enter the traps. The trap was empty only a few minutes and we were only 50' away when the fox sparrow flew directly to it and immediately entered.

May 30 Banded bird seen this morning and trapped in late afternoon.

June 5 Two, one with band, at animal house at 7:40 a.m.

Tomich
1953

Zonotrichia leucophrys

May 21 Point Barrow, Alaska - Caught one with black head stripes, near the animal house. Banded and released.

May 23 One at animal house with shiny band, evidently the same one caught May 21.

May 24 Caught in trap at animal house, but escaped, at 10 a.m. Seen again at 10:25, apparently the same bird as before.

May 25 Bird with shiny band again at animal house, at 7:20 a.m.

May 26 Same banded bird caught in trap #16 at 4 p.m., some 200 yards from animal house.

May 28 Banded bird taken in trap and collected by Pitelka.

June 3 Unbanded bird escaped from trap 6,

June 5 New bird banded in drum area.

June 13 One in base, unbanded, at U.S.G.S. hut.

Jomich
1953

Acanthis hornemanni

May 20 Point Barrow, Alaska - Two, seemingly a pair, foraging quietly at 1:30 p.m on the tundra south of the permafrost installation, about 1/4 mile out in the open and near the lagoon shore. Here there was no bare ground but the higher grassy tufts were only thinly covered with the dead erect vegetation in view. Again at 6:30 p.m. a ♂ and ♀ were feeding where the village road leaves the base.

May 23 Two at permafrost installation this afternoon, foraging with snow buntings

June 1 Three at Nuwuk the only ones seen all day in several hours on the tundra.

June 4 Birds, a few, calling flight at AACS station in early afternoon. None seen in several days on open tundra.

June 22 With Thompson I saw one foraging among high polygons along the salt-water lagoon, and Thompson picked up a dead one there.

Jonish
1953

Alopex lagopus

Point Barrow, Alaska

Aug. 7 Only evidence of foxes this spring and summer was the dead one found near Ikrowik lake on June 16. (specimen to MVZ). Absence in the winter may be due to snow depth that prevented foxes from catching lemmings. Foxes said to have left in November when snow became too deep, beyond 8", (D. Z. Thompson) for hunting by pouncing and crushing lemmings under the snow.

Jonich
1953

Mustela rixosa

June 4 Point Barrow, Alaska
One seen as it protruded its head from a burrow in a snow patch about 2 mi. S. of base, in an area heavily populated with *Lemmus*.

June 6 Alfred Hopson sent up a pregnant ♀ with a box of *Lemmus* captured by eskimo boys near the village. Thompson and his 2 eskimo assistants caught one weasel in central marsh. A large ♂ was found among the buildings and caught by hand by one of the investigators. It did not bite and was carried uninjured to the laboratory. The weasel appeared to be in excellent health, evidently having strayed in from the tundra.

June 8 In back of A.R.R. at 7:45 I heard the defense or terror squeaking of a brown lemming and saw 30' from where I was sitting a least weasel struggling with the lemming. After a few seconds the struggle ceased and the weasel stood partly astride the lemming, which lay on its side. The weasel gripped the lemming by the nape of the neck and dragged it 8' to a pile of lumber set on blocks. It deposited the mouse about a foot ~~ad~~ under the lumber in shadow and then left it, disappearing under the pile. After a few seconds the weasel reappeared past the mouse, looking about. It came 3' into the open, and as if to drink at a small puddle of water. It's fur was wet on one side from rolling

Mustela nivosa

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
about with the lemming. The weasel then ran 2' to a second lemming that had just appeared around the end of the lumber pile, as if to seize it. The lemming had crouched and when the weasel was upon it, rushed off into the open with loud squeaking and squealing accentuated by accelerated locomotion. Stopping 25' away the lemming crouched for a few seconds, and then wandered off ~~up~~ along a tractor track. The weasel had turned away when the lemming bolted and I could see no genuine attempt from the beginning toward seizing the lemming. The weasel turned to the dead lemming and dragged it out of sight.

June 10 Frank Pitelka forced one out of a brown lemming burrow on the ridge. At one end of the burrow was a dead lemming and another inside was squealing. The weasel retreated about 20' to a large snow patch and a few minutes later it watched from a hole in it, about 60' out in the snow. We found several lemmings dead in the area, eaten at the back of the head and over the shoulders; likely they were victims of the weasel.

June 16 One on route to Barrow #3 in turf thrown up by a bulldozer. Pitelka shot it when it peered out to watch us.

June 17 Large ♂ (#2526) had scarcely any fat upon it.

Mustela nivosa

June 23 Point Barrow, Alaska
One seen in drum area dodged in and out of several lemming burrows and refuges among the high polygons when pursued. Finally after 4 or 5 such attempts it disappeared into a burrow where we could not dislodge.

June 24 Paul Hurd caught one by hand at Britton waningan. It was a large ♂ with a scattering of white on the sides that extended almost to the middorsal line of the thorax, giving much of the pelage a roan appearance. The underside of the skin bore no evidence of molting, indicating the possibility of a color variation and not a late change of pelage. All the other weasels I have seen have been in full brown pelage.

June 27 A pregnant ♀ caught today by Pitelka on plot L.W.

June 29 Hurd caught one at N. end of L.W. but it escaped when left for dead. It had run into a shallow lemming burrow containing nest and 5 young mice. The ♀ lemming removed 4 of these to another burrow 6' away ~~when~~ apparently after the weasel escaped. W.L. Thompson caught two in plot L.E., at separate locations, discovered when he was standing quietly each time for just a few minutes during censusing.

Chester Lampe brought in a lactating ♀ from the village. Uterine horns were 2 to 3 mm. in diameter but traces of embryo scars were not detectable. The specimen, I think, weighed less than any other.

Mustela vixosa

July 12 Point Barrow, Alaska
Paul Hurd found a weasel at Britton Manor but was unable to capture it.

July 15 Paul Hurd caught a ♂ at Britton Manor and brought it in. The weasel was decidedly less heavy than others caught, but it had a light fat deposit.

July 20 One adult seen near Thompson's exclosures.

July 29 Two adult males caught by hand, one along gas-~~line~~ well road and one near L. W. to east of ridge. Both were seen as they watched me when I passed in the weasel. Both bit viciously when handled. One traded for adult ♂ caught July 4 at Ikrowik Lake (frozen). This one was made into a skeleton; the other, caught today, was skinned.

Aug. 7 Weasel that has been raiding traps on the grid finally caught when found in a green sparrow trap. This or, including others, has been responsible for killing of 30 or 40 birds in traps this season. Traps C1 and C2 were the only ones effected, indicating the weasel was a resident for at least part of the time. Animal caught was a large male with patchy remnants of yellowish summer pelage in rich new chocolate winter pelage.